

Beirut army chief seizes power Claims bid for unity; 'Shoot at all insurgents!'

By ANAN SAFADI
POST Middle East Affairs Correspondent

THE ARMY COMMANDER of the Beirut region last night declared that he has seized power in Lebanon. Speaking on Lebanon's TV and radio, the commander, Brig. Aziz al-Ahdab, called on President Suleiman Franjeh and Premier Rashid Karami to resign within 24 hours. He also called on the country's 99-man parliament to choose a new president within seven days.

Brig. Ahdab's coup however appeared to have met trouble as Beirut radio — his only mouthpiece — went off the air shortly before midnight. Earlier in the evening, after announcing the coup, the radio interrupted its scheduled programmes to relay coded messages to army units, wedged in between martial music.

Brig. Ahdab declared a state of emergency throughout the country and imposed an indefinite curfew on Beirut. He said he had no ambition to hold power and he was taking the move to salvage Lebanon, where growing disintegration in the armed forces threatened to reignite the 10-month-long civil war. Brig. Ahdab referred to his coup as a "corrective movement."

Syrian President Hafez Assad used the same description for his November 1970 coup.

In line with the tradition in coups in the Arab world, Brig. Ahdab called his first nationwide announcement "communique number one." He read out 13 points, ranging from the call on the administration to resign to ordering the armed forces to shoot at any insurgents.

Brig. Ahdab said that he "wholeheartedly" identified with Syrian mediation towards solving Lebanon's sectarian and political conflict. The interim military regime would respect past co-existence accords with the Palestine Liberation Organization, he added.

Brig. Ahdab said he felt it was his duty to seize power to save Lebanon's national unity in face of the current deteriorating situation. He added that he made his move when

all warnings against dissident activity "had gone with the wind." It was not clear by late last night whether Brig. Ahdab is Christian or Moslem. Brig. Ahdab yesterday significantly voiced his allegiance to the army's Commander in Chief, Hanna Sa'ed, who is a Christian. He also endorsed general Sa'ed's offer of an amnesty to army rebels provided they lay down their arms. A number of army commanders, Christians and Moslems, last night declared over Beirut radio their support for Brig. Ahdab's move, which they said had saved Lebanon's dignity.

There was no information on the initial reaction in Lebanese political circles to Brig. Ahdab's coup. He is seen to be mainly in confrontation with the Moslem rebel troops, the left as well as the PLO. These camps are now allied in an alignment virtually controlling the northern city of Tripoli, as well as other main towns in east and south Lebanon.

Brig. Ahdab's announcement that he had seized power came shortly after Premier Karami threatened to resign "in despair" over the Moslem rebel troops' rejection of his demand that they lay down their arms. The rebels were obviously capitalizing on the support of the left, whose champion, Kamal Jumblatt, declared yesterday that the conflict with the establishment had reached "a point of no return," adding, "we have no alternative but to continue with the revolution."

Likening Lebanon to a sinking ship, Premier Karami yesterday said that he had no choice but to relinquish power. Efforts by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khad-

dam, who was still in Beirut yesterday, to persuade Karami to remain in office reportedly failed. The Moslem mutiny within the armed forces yesterday gathered momentum as rebels overran more government garrisons in northern and southern Lebanon. But in contrast to the beginning of their mutiny earlier this week, the rebels yesterday faced resistance from loyalist forces composed of both Christians and Moslem troops.

Shortly before Brig. Ahdab announced his coup, scattered gunfire was reported in Beirut and Tripoli. The shooting was said to have been touched off by the assassination earlier in the day of the military commander of northern Lebanon, Col. Abdul-Majid Shihab, a Moslem loyalist officer. The assailants were not identified.

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Civilian supporters of the Lebanese Arab Army pose on a tank at the captured Araman garrison near Tripoli on Wednesday. The garrison fell to the Moslem rebels after a four-hour shoot-out. (AP radiophoto)

Wilson challenge to rebels

By MARK SEGAL
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — In a most dramatic and unexpected move, Harold Wilson yesterday decided to stake his own political future, as well as that of his Labour Government, on a parliamentary vote to take place at midnight Israel time last night.

The decision follows the Government's humiliating 28 vote defeat in the House of Commons on Wednesday night on its general economic strategy. The defeat was the result of abstentions by 37 Labour backbenchers, most of them members of the left-wing "Tribune" group.

The 284-256 vote had obviously staggered Wilson and his ministers. Wilson hastily left the House as opposition Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher demanded the Government resign and Conservative legislators chanted "Out! Out!" Should the government fail to win the vote of confidence, Wilson will have to submit his resignation to the Queen and new elections will be held throughout the United Kingdom in April.

While the Prime Minister anxiously conferred yesterday afternoon with his colleagues, the following statement was rushed out to the press from 10 Downing Street:

"The cabinet has decided to take the first opportunity available to clarify the situation created by the vote on its motion last night. The House of Commons will be asked for a vote of confidence in the Government and its financial and economic policies today."

On his sixtieth birthday — which turned out to be the most dramatic of his life — the Prime Minister thus openly challenged his rebellious left-wingers, giving them the unpleasant choice of bringing down a Labour Government and incurring the wrath involved, or voting with the Government against the dictates of their conscience.

The left-wingers oppose the spending cutback, which would have badly hit education, housing and health programmes, because they claim it will boost already high unemployment and send the cost of living soaring.

Meanwhile, the Pound recovered slightly yesterday to close more than two pence above Wednesday's value. Sterling touched its historic low of \$1.905 in early trading but closed at \$1.930, compared with \$1.917 Wednesday. (AP, UPI)

ME 'most dangerous' spot says Kissinger

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of State Henry Kissinger yesterday warned that the Middle East remains the "single most dangerous" and "complicated" area in the world.

Answering questions at a Boston World Affairs Council meeting, the Secretary explained that the "intensity of feeling" by leaders of both sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict could get out of the control of those who want to preserve global peace.

Notice to Our Readers

The Jerusalem Post is preparing a readers' survey, which will be conducted by the Israel Institute for Applied Social Research.

Starting today researchers will be positioned at some of the kiosks and stores where the newspaper is sold to obtain preliminary information from readers.

We trust that our readers will cooperate with this effort to improve the performance of The Jerusalem Post.

Civil service holding 4-hour strike Sunday Histadrut heads back Barkai

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — The State Radio will go off the air, no goods will be cleared out of customs, postmen will not handle mail and offices of income tax, property tax and national insurance will be closed for four hours on Sunday. Some 25,000 civil servants will hold meetings at that time, to protest against the planned cut in their salaries.

But heads of the Histadrut Trade Union Department at an informal meeting yesterday, agreed to support the Government's decision to abolish the specific allowances in accordance with the Barkai Committee recommendations.

The Cabinet Committee on wages is to meet today to decide on how to implement the Barkai report. Over 20,000 civil servants out of 60,000 government employees will be affected by this decision.

At their meeting yesterday, the leaders of the political factions in the Histadrut trade union department refused to support a proposal by Uriel Abramowitz, the department's chairman, to adopt the recommendation of the minority in the Barkai Committee. The minority recommended that all 60,000 workers receive a 3.4 per cent wage increase and that specific allowances be cut to that level.

But they agreed to reject the committee's proposal that wages in the public sector be frozen.

The participants still had not decided whether the allowances originally intended for workers doing special jobs should be cut in April and abolished in October, as the Barkai Committee recommended, or be reduced gradually over a longer period.

Meanwhile, representatives of workers in the departments of income tax, customs, national insu-

rance and the Communications Ministry yesterday formed a committee to coordinate their efforts to block implementation of the Barkai Committee recommendations.

Yitzhak Mann, representing the customs workers, complained that "when subsidies are cut and the value of money is declining, they're also cutting our wages."

"There is no precedent for such a brutal cut in wages," Yehzekel Sheffer, of the Ministry of Communications, added. "Similar ones will follow," he warned.

Extremists called for a 24 hour strike on Sunday and moderates proposed a two-hour protest meeting today. The proposal to hold a four-hour strike was adopted, as a compromise.

Must ask more of ourselves — Rabin

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

KIBBUTZ YIFTAT. — Israelis should make demands of themselves before they do so from the country, Premier Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

Speaking at a meeting of men and women volunteers who work in army garages and emergency stores, Rabin said he hoped many more would follow the volunteers' example.

Israel cannot expect to receive American aid in its present magnitude forever, he said, and we must all work harder to exploit our own resources.

Nahum Sarig, who started the volunteer drive a year ago, said it now included 10,000 men and women, who had put in 100,000 work days. He suggested that every Israeli volunteer to take a 20 per cent cut in wages for the next three years.

Stay with Labour, Ya'ari tells Mapam

Jerusalem Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Meir Ya'ari, a founding member of Hashomer Hatzair and Mapam, yesterday advised his party to stick to the Alignment and stay in the Government "until Labour decides to throw us out by yielding to the Rafi men and opposing our views on the future of the administered territories."

Ya'ari took the floor at yesterday's session of his party's political committee, which is currently discussing a "peace plan."

According to Ya'ari, Israel has little if any, chance of opposing American pressure to pull back to its 1967 frontiers, and he did not recommend risking a break with the U.S. on that. He made one exception, however: Jerusalem should stay the united capital of Israel, and the corridor linking it to the plain must be widened, so as to permit a firm hold on the city.

He praised Yitzhak Rabin ("no better Prime Minister") and Yehoshua Rabinowitz, but he feared that Labour might be drawn into war by the faction of "generals who reject peace."

Labour leaders prepare for convention

By SEAYIA SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — The Labour Party leadership bureau yesterday met for the first time since the return to office of Secretary-General Meir Zarmi, and elected David Kalderson, managing director of the Agricultural Bank, as chairman of the electoral committee for the forthcoming national convention. Zarmi said the convention would not take place "before October or November."

Prime Minister Rabin addressed the meeting, saying the convention should deal with political, economic and social problems. These problems must be discussed at grass roots level — in party branches — in advance of the convention, he said.

Israel-Diaspora relations were complicated and warranted a special session of the convention, Mr. Rabin added.

Mrs. Golda Meir was present at the meeting, as were a number of cabinet ministers. Outside the party headquarters, a small number of Panthers staged a demonstration protesting against Mrs. Meir's return to active politics.

Schindler to see Ford on arms policy

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Rabbi Alexander Schindler, current chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said yesterday that he has requested a meeting with President Ford in order to explain the concern of the American Jewish leadership over the Administration's plans to supply Egypt with arms.

Addressing a New York press conference, Schindler said that he expected to meet with the President sometime during the next 10 days, although no specific date has yet been set.

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Allon and K meet today to discuss 'end of war'

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Foreign Minister Yigal Allon meets today with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in an attempt to coordinate U.S. and Israeli positions in advance of King Hussein's visit to Washington later this month.

Allon, who arrived here late yesterday afternoon, will try to reach some sort of understanding with Kissinger about the basic elements contained in agreements "ending the state of war."

The Foreign Minister will give Kissinger the Israeli Government's lengthy study on this concept, prepared by the Foreign Ministry during the past few weeks. The Israeli Cabinet authorized the U.S. late last month to explore talks leading to such agreements with Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The Americans have let it be known that they want some "new ideas" from Israel in advance of Hussein's arrival here. It has been clear that Washington would like to offer Hussein a proposal in an effort to revive Israel-Jordanian negotiations, cut off in October, 1974 by the Rabat summit conference de-

cision proclaiming the PLO as spokesman for West Bank Palestinians.

Israel officials maintained again yesterday that Allon was not authorized to come to Washington with any maps or specific territorial proposals to offer Jordan. But informed diplomatic sources here confirmed that Israel would probably be asked to come forward with a West Bank withdrawal plan if the Jordanian monarch should show some receptivity to the "end of war" concept during his talks here.

Most observers here thought that the U.S. decision to arm Egypt would certainly be high on the Allon-Kissinger agenda, as will be Israel's complaints over certain Ford Administration policies regarding arms and economic aid to Israel.

UPI adds from Managua, Nicaragua: Israel Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the press here yesterday: "I am sure that the U.S. will postpone its sale of arms to Egypt until the general political situation of the Middle East reaches a peaceful solution."

Quiet in Judea/Samaria but councils step down

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Unrest gripped several West Bank towns yesterday as municipal councils disbanded their offices in Nablus, Ramallah, El-Bireh and Bir Zeit. The mayor and council in a smaller town, Silwad, north of Jerusalem, yesterday joined in the collective resignation in protest against the quelling of the current disturbances in the area.

Yesterday, there were only minor incidents.

The Defence Ministry spokesman last night told The Jerusalem Post that the authorities will take no measures to counter the municipal councils' collective walkout "as long as the functional duties are carried out in the service of the public." The spokesman said the authorities will not force any mayor or councillor who resigned to rescind. "They are free to do as they wish," the spokesman said, while noting that municipal elections in Judea and Samaria are in any case due next month. The spokesman said that the authorities will do their utmost to avoid any interference in West Bank cities, but he warned that they "will not tolerate disturbances."

West Bank notables yesterday said they doubted whether the scheduled elections will be held "under the present state of affairs."

Nablus mayor Haj Ma'azouz Masri told newsmen yesterday that he and his colleagues would neither withdraw their declared resignation

Maronite family crosses border Christians in South look to Israel for help

Jerusalem Post Reporter

nor would they run for new elections unless the authorities responded to local Arab demands. He listed these as follows: ending prayer by Jews at the Jerusalem Temple Mount, site of the al-Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock; ending West Bank Jewish settlement; stopping Israeli troops from entering schools, and quashing fines and prison terms imposed on student rioters.

Masri said that local Arab's grievances "have reached a climax," and the crux of the problem was Israel's "continued occupation." He said that local Arabs "do not want further wars. All we want is our land, peace and justice."

Wolf Blitzer writes from Washington:

Israel's image as a benevolent "occupying" authority was marred yesterday by reports highlighted in the U.S. media of alleged "brutality" in quelling the demonstrations on the West Bank.

Radio and newspaper accounts of the demonstrations said that Israeli soldiers had "dragged" Arab students out of their homes and beaten them with clubs.

The "Washington Star" in an eyewitness account by visiting correspondent William Frye, headlined its story: "Bloodshed and brutality on Israel's West Bank."

They added that Christian officers and soldiers are trying to defend Kila with three tanks, armoured cars, armoured personnel carriers and jeeps with recoilless guns, which they had taken from a nearby garrison unit.

The family also The Jerusalem Post that south Lebanon's Christian population are in distress, and are urging Israel to do everything possible either to help them or to open the

Maronite family crosses border Christians in South look to Israel for help

Jerusalem Post Reporter

broder to more refugees. The family, who were dressed in European style, will be transferred today to representatives of the International Red Cross. It is believed that more Christian refugees will cross the border into Israel in coming days.

The sound of small arms fire and explosions could be clearly heard in Metulla over the past 24 hours. It was reported that the IDF and the Border Police, as well as settlements, have taken precautionary measures all along the border.

Northrop to revamp Saudi air force

WASHINGTON. — The Northrop Aircraft Corporation was awarded a \$1.46b. contract on Wednesday to modernise the Saudi Arabian air force.

Under the contract, announced by the U.S. Air Force, Northrop will train Saudi pilots and maintenance workers, build airbases and install communications.

Northrop is also supplying Saudi Arabia with F-5 international fighters to replace ageing British Lightnings. (Reuters)



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24 KILOS OF THE DRUG STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR Opium smuggling ring broken

By ARTHUR KEMELMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Sixty-eight suspects — dealers, pushers and users — have been arrested over the past two months for their connection with an Israel-Iranian opium smuggling ring.

More arrests are imminent. Credit for cracking the extensive operation belongs to Chief Inspector Leode Salook and the 12 members of the Central Police District Drug Department.

In the latter half of 1975, drug hauls by investigators indicated that large quantities of opium from Iran were entering Israel. After several arrests and testimony by detainees, investigators determined that this was not an incidental phenomena but was being brought over by a well-organized smuggling ring.

Investigators moved into high gear. There were stake-outs on those suspected of involvement. Many were well-known dealers of Iranian background. Searches of residences resulted in finding numerous

letters and documents that had to be checked sentence by sentence. The same names and addresses began cropping up again and again.

On January 17, the drug squad's two and half month effort — involving up to 18 hours of work a day — paid off. They arrested 12 key members of the ring. In the raid and from the testimony of those arrested it was discovered that couriers were bringing in the opium in one of three ways —

strapping it to their bodies, using false-aided suitcases, and filling in the empty space in thermos bottles. The quantity of opium seized so far amounts to 2.5 kilos. Chief Inspector Salook says that couriers paid about IL6,000 a kilo in Iran for the opium. Here the opium was wholesaled to distributors who turned out portions to pushers, driving up the "street" value of a kilo to between IL120,000 and IL150,000.

Of the 68 arrested, about 25 were pushing the opium, primarily in the Hatikva and Kfar Shalom neighborhoods. But sales also were being

made in the Netanya area, and several of the suspects live there.

The smuggling side of the ring has been broken. No more opium is entering the country from Iran. A substantial number of pushers have been arrested. The arrest of some wholesalers has taken place and the arrest of others is imminent. But a major problem remains — 24 kilos the ring is suspected of bringing into the country have yet to be found.

Another problem has also arisen. Addicts, deprived of their opium, have begun to turn to heroin. About 150 grams of heroin worth IL900,000 on the street were uncovered two weeks ago by investigators. They are convinced that there is far more coming into Israel, primarily from Holland and Germany. A number of individuals well known to the drug squad have been going to Holland and Germany recently in order to buy and to organize future purchases.

Says one member of the drug squad, "If this thing gets out of hand, the country is in trouble."

UJA Chairman major backer of Jackson

By DAVID LANDAU

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Among U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson's most prominent supporters, it is reliably learned, is the Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Paul Zuckerman. Zuckerman, of Detroit, who built his wealth on the manufacture of peanut butter, has held fund-raising functions for Jackson in his home, and is believed to have contributed to the senator's campaign.

Zuckerman is a veteran Jackson supporter. He backed the senator in 1972, when Jackson lost the nomination to Senator George McGovern.

Zuckerman is reported to have told Jackson that even if he wins this time, he (Zuckerman) will not be able to witness his victory because the dates of the Democratic convention clash with those of the Jewish Agency's Assembly in Jerusalem in July.

Other well-known names in the UJA leadership are also said to be supporting Jackson — including General Chairman Frank Lautenberg and Leonard Strelitz of Norfolk, Virginia, one of the UJA's 15 national chairmen.

Airfield for Kiryat Shmona

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Kiryat Shmona may soon get its own airport. Transport Minister Gad Yacobi disclosed on Wednesday.

Speaking in the Knesset during a discussion on the need for more air travel facilities, he said engineers will begin their location searches for a Kiryat Shmona airfield next year. They will also look for a new site for Haifa's air terminal, which should be moved so as to permit it to accept jet aircraft, he said.

Yacobi was addressing the house on a motion for the agenda by Alignment MKs Yossi Sarid and Avraham Gever, on the need for improving air travel service to and from the north.

According to the Transport Minister, the Government's stand aim of scattering the population is governing his Ministry's work in determining location and size of airfield and landing strips.

Today, he said, Israel has 10 civilian airfields, but more must be built since more than a million Israelis will be travelling on internal flights by 1985 compared with 181,000 annually in 1965.

Yacobi also announced that Santa Katarina's new airfield, built at a cost of IL14m, will be officially opened in eight weeks' time.

Postal workers held in tokens theft

Three Communication Ministry employees in Jerusalem, suspected of stealing telephone tokens over a long period of time, were remanded for seven days by the Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The three suspects — Ya'acov Levy, David Levy and Uri Shalom — were arrested after they were followed by a security officer of the ministry. The three had to collect tokens at booths.



The IDF's new induction centre at Tel Hashomer, which opened last month, is now operating smoothly after a "running-in" period. All new recruits have a chest x-ray as part of their pre-induction medical examination. (Uzi Keren)

Jewish Agency head praises 'strides' by British Jews

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jewish organizations in Great Britain have made "very good strides" towards the implementation of resolutions passed at last December's Jerusalem Conference of Jewish Solidarity, according to Jewish Agency Director-General Moshe Rivlin.

But Rivlin, who consulted many Jewish leaders at the recent Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, told The Jerusalem Post this week that the pace of activity outside Great Britain still leaves room for improvement.

The solidarity conference brought some 170 Diaspora Jewish leaders from five continents to the Knesset for two days of sessions, in reaction to the anti-Israel onslaught by the Arabs and the Third World at the UN in November. After passing resolutions in favour of greater immigration, economic support for Israel and Zionist education abroad, the conference charged the Government and the World Zionist Organization with setting up a joint body to follow them up.

Rivlin said he hoped that other Jewish communities around the world would follow the lead of the British organizations in implementing the resolutions of the Jerusalem conference. Work done now, he maintained, would bear fruit not only this year but also in years to come.

"We want half-a-million Jewish

tourists coming here this year," he said, "that's 170,000 more than in 1975. One of the most encouraging results of the solidarity conference was the surprising number of Jewish organizations that decided to hold their meetings in Israel. Some have decided to hold board meetings here this year, their executive meetings next year and their plenary sessions in 1978."

Turning to the Jewish Agency Board of Governors meeting that is scheduled to open in Jerusalem early next month, Rivlin said the two days of sessions will be "very practical." Committees will meet the week beforehand to discuss Agency activities, and the board will vote on the Agency's \$502m budget, which has already been approved by the Executive.

Labour manpower head, dead at 54

TEL AVIV. — Meir Czchik, the chief inspector of manpower at the Labour Ministry, who died on Wednesday, was buried yesterday at the Holon Cemetery.

Czchik, who was 54, served as an officer in the Red Army before coming to Israel in 1948. A lieutenant in the reserves, and a lawyer by profession, he served in civilian life as deputy director-general of the Broadcasting Authority for 16 years. He had been in charge of manpower at the Labour Ministry for several years. (Timm)

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Judges were there at the chase

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Two Supreme Court justices on Wednesday found themselves eyewitnesses, indeed passive participants, in a chase after a fugitive from justice.

Judges Alfred Witkon and Elihu Mann were sitting in an official car outside the Supreme Court in the Russian Compound at 2.30 p.m. waiting to be driven home after finishing their day's work when the driver, Arye Sidor, spotted a man fleeing the courthouse — which also houses the Magistrate's Court. Behind the fleeing man ran a policeman with a drawn gun.

With the judge's ascent, Sidor drove the car after the fugitive for several hundred yards. Near the Bank of Israel building on Jaffa Road, he braked the car and pursued the man on foot. He caught up with him and with the persuasion of a pistol carried by Sidor, the man returned to the courthouse where he was handed over to the police. Sidor then carried the judges home to their lunch.

New schedules for Railways

HAIFA. — As of Sunday the Railways will abolish its left luggage offices and effect changes in the time-table of passenger trains on the southern lines, as part of its new economy measures.

The 7.30 train from Jerusalem will no longer run to Tel Aviv-South (near Holon junction), but to the Bnei Brak station. Passengers whose destination is the centre of Tel Aviv will have to travel there by the Dan bus service. The 15.12 train to Tel Aviv-South will be replaced by another leaving 15.53 and running to Bnei Brak only. But a new train, to Tel Aviv-South, will leave Jerusalem at 10.53.

The number of trains from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will remain unchanged, but the noon train will be shifted to 13.50. On the Beersheba line the last train south from Tel Aviv will leave at 18.25, instead of 17.55. On Fridays and holidays even the old time-table will remain in force.

The Railways spokesman said yesterday that ten men employed in the left luggage offices would be transferred to other duties. Baggage left behind after Friday may be collected from the station masters.

ZEITA VILLAGE near Tulkarm, a former Jordanian stronghold near the Green Line opposite Netanya, was yesterday hooked up to the electric grid. (Timm)

This hole in the sky is actually the comet "West 1975," which was photographed on Wednesday from the Mt. Ramon Observatory by a team from Tel Aviv University's astronomy department. The comet, notable for its three "tails," has been visible at 4 a.m. for the last few days. Because of clear weather at Mt. Ramon, the Tel Aviv team has been one of the few in the world able to photograph the comet. (T.A. University)

Israel seeks German industrial know-how

By AARON SITTNER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel would welcome German cooperation in industrial research-and-development, the chief scientist of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Professor Yitzhak Ya'acov, told a group of visiting German industrialists yesterday.

The 15 businessmen, leading members of the Federal German Industrialists Association, met with Ya'acov and other leading scientists at the Hebrew University. He told them Israel's R-and-D expenditures this year will reach \$40m,

compared with \$10m. in the years from 1968 to 1973.

Earlier in the day the industrialists met with Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar-Lev. Since for some members of the group this was their first visit to Israel, Bar-Lev opened the meeting with an explanation of why Israel was established, the Ministry spokesman told The Post.

Then, seeking to persuade the Germans to invest in Israeli industry, Bar-Lev laid before them details of Israel's main economic

problems — the high rate of inflation, the fear of mass unemployment and the massive \$3,900m. balance-of-payments deficit.

This morning the German industrialists begin their visits to manufacturing plants throughout the country.

Meanwhile, the Treasury yesterday confirmed that West German Finance Minister Hans Apel has accepted the invitation of Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz to visit Israel. The official visit will take place between March 21 and 23.

Peace is the key to German investment

By DAVID KRIVINE

Jerusalem Post Economic Correspondent
Hans-Gunter Sohl, President of the Federation of German Industries, and leader of a visiting mission of West German businessmen, is a top-ranking industrialist by any standard.

After heading August-Thyssen-Hütte for 20 years, he is now its Board Chairman. Thyssen is the biggest company in Germany, and the biggest privately-owned steel works in Europe. Its turnover comes to \$8,000m. and it employs 150,000 persons.

Could such a huge concern interest itself in doing business with a small country like Israel? He grins: "My idea was never to be big, but to be profitable."

In general, are German companies inclined to invest abroad? "Very much so," and he explains lucidly why. His country has a trade surplus, which makes it the envy of trade-deficit countries. But even such a surplus has its problems. "We keep up-valuing the Deutschmark. So our costs (and taxes) soar, while our prices decline. That leaves less and less room for profit."

"Domestically, government expenditure in West Germany accounts for 10 per cent more of the gross

VISITORS' GALLERY
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national product than it did in 1969. Ten per cent is \$40 billion. Wages account for 5 per cent more of the GNP, or \$20 billion. Together, so-

cial services and wages eat up an extra 15 per cent of the nation's resources.

"Naturally, profits plunged again. So investment tumbled too — in 1974 by 8 per cent, last year by another 6 per cent. If we want to restore our 3-4 per cent growth-rate, we must increase private investment by something like \$8,000m. a year," he says.

Does all that investment have to be made in Germany?

"Not only. It should be made where the best profits are to be found." In any case, he goes on, export possibilities are limited. If foreign competitors can under-price the Germans. So Volkswagen sets up production facilities in Brazil and Mexico — where costs are lower.

The developing countries are potentially a growing market, but cannot afford to import endlessly. "Mexico has the same population as Germany today, around 60m. By the end of the century we shall have (it is said) only 58m. inhabitants, and they will have 120m."

"We cannot confine our help just to selling them goods. Germany is the second exporting country in the world, I think — but we are way down the list when it comes to investments. Britain, France, even Holland — which is so much smaller than Germany — invest more. I suppose this derives in part from their colonial tradition. But we must do some catching up."

Is the Arab boycott an obstacle to investing in Israel? "The situation appears to be better than it was some years ago. Recently I heard from the Arab side that they want to modify the rules a bit. Instead of banning all placements here outright, they now say that anyone investing in Israel must also invest in an Arab state. If that is the new policy, it should not present big problems."

Can you invest in both sides without difficulty? "Why not? The businessman has an economic, not a political point of view."

"The job of our delegation is to scout around, see what offers, and make recommendations to the business enterprises which belong to our Federation. You know, the BDI (the Federation's initial in German) has 39 affiliated organizations, and 100,000 member companies."

So we must show that ventures in Israel can be profitable? "Yes, they must be profitable — and they must also be secure. We hope the effort for peace makes progress." It chided gently. "It offers the best opening both for Israel and the Arab countries. If the business world can be assured that peace is here to stay over the coming years — why, you will have all the investors you can cope with."

A SERIES OF FINES were imposed by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Wednesday on bakeries which sold contaminated food: Dagan Bakery of Herzliya paid IL1,500 in fines; Wexler pastry shop of Tel Aviv was fined IL1,000; Bass Bakery of Ramat Gan was fined IL1,000; and Hayesod Bakery of Jaffa was fined IL2,000 for shortweighing products.

C'ttee stymied on direct elections

By ASHER WALLFISH

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

The Knesset Law Committee devoted a fruitless two-hour session on Wednesday wrangling about the draft law for direct elections, at the close of which the factions indulged in a spate of mutual recrimination.

A proposal by Committee Chairman Zerah Warhaftig, (National Religious Party) — who opposes the bill to invite MKs who do not belong to the Committee wasted at least one hour and did not reach a vote.

A proposal by Shulamit Aloni (CRM) to refer the draft worked out in sub-committee en bloc to the plenum without a debate was backed by Labour but did not reach a vote either.

The chairman refused to announce

a date for the next Law Committee meeting.

Mrs. Aloni later charged that Herut, the NRP and the Independent Liberals were engaging in delaying tactics. Labour said it would invoke a special regulation of the House Rules to compel Warhaftig to call a meeting next week.

Moshe Nissim (Likud-Liberals) said that after he reproached the Alignment's Esther Herlitz for calling him a liar on Tuesday, he managed to persuade her that her accusation had all been based on misunderstanding. Nissim said that the Liberals would only go along with a Labour initiative on direct elections if all the details first had been hammered out properly. He said Labour would like to pass a draft containing several versions, and later do deals with the ILP and NRP which would be to the Liberals' disadvantage.

Local authorities body tells towns to submit budgets

By SARAH HONIG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Union of Local Authorities Executive yesterday overruled the recommendation made by the union's economic problems emergency committee that all local authorities refrain from submitting their 1976-77 budgets to the Ministry of Interior.

The Executive instructed towns to prepare the budgets and to submit them as stipulated by law. According to the executive, changes by the Minister of Finance to help solve the cities' financial woes had been made before the committee made its recommendation.

Portuguese news magazine makes debut

TEL AVIV. — Israel's first Portuguese-language biweekly "Semana em Português" ("The Week in Portuguese") is making its first appearance this weekend. The paper, which is aimed at readers both here and in Brazil, is published by Semana Ltd., which already produces a Spanish-language weekly of that name.

Publisher Shlomo Levinsky said yesterday that there is a growing demand in Brazil for up-to-date information on Israel and the Middle East. He said the paper would follow an independent line, while stressing its devotion to Zionism. The editor of the new publication is Eliezer Strauch of "Yediot Aharonot," who before settling here seven years ago was foreign editor and chief political commentator of "O Globo," Brazil's most widely-circulated newspaper. (Timm)

Shippers demand gov't intervene in Eilat strike

HAIFA. — The Shippers Council, which represents importers and exporters, yesterday cabled demands for immediate Government intervention in the Eilat port container terminal strike.

In cables to the Ministers of Transport and Commerce and Industry, the Council noted that though the strike is now three weeks old, all contacts have been broken off, and the parties appear unable to reach a settlement.

The strike has been causing serious difficulties for exporters and plants waiting for imported materials, the Council added.

The strike is also endangering the land bridge between the Mediterranean and Red Sea, Yehuda Rotem, Director-General of Zim, said yesterday, especially since the Eilat-Hong Kong container line has just opened.



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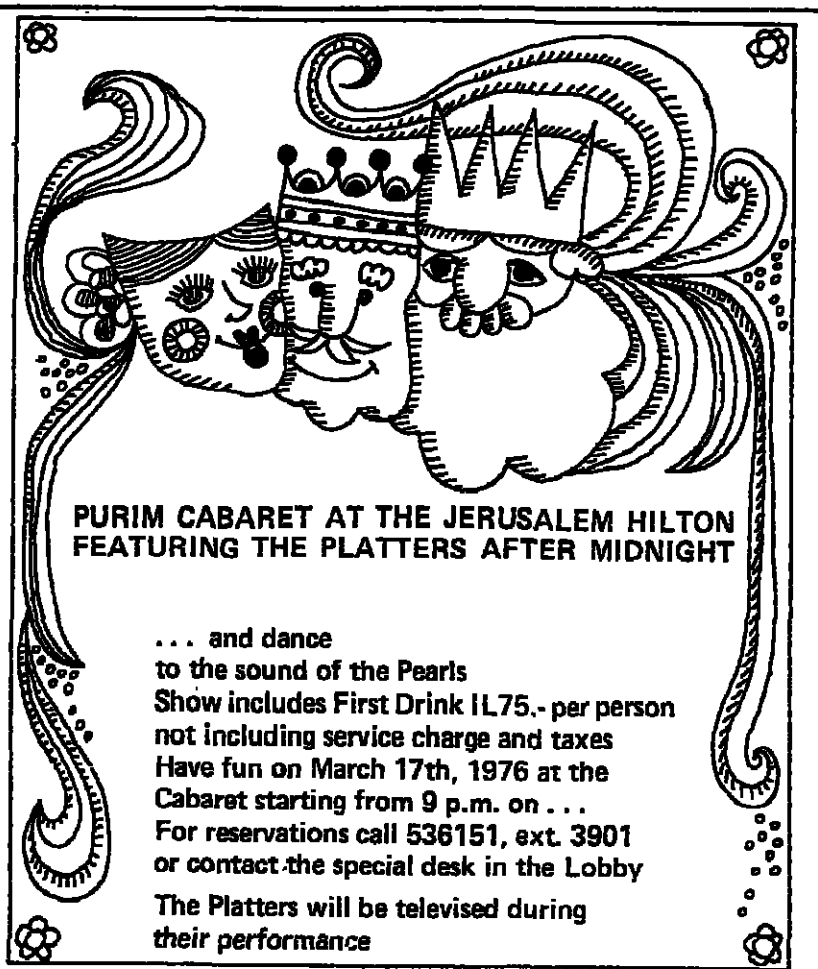
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(courtesy of Soldiers' Welfare Association)

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children to participate.

Watch for further details.

March Headquarters

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Libya denies it is ousting Egyptians

CAIRO. — Two major newspapers here maintained yesterday that Libya's Col. Muammar Gaddafi has ordered the expulsion of 3,000 Egyptians from his country in retaliation for Egypt's arrest of 27 Libyans on charges of espionage.

Libya's semi-official Arab Revolution News Agency, however, branded the Egyptian expulsion story as "another lie," adding, "there is no truth whatever in these claims."

"Al Akhbar" and "Al Akhbar" said 350 Egyptians had arrived at the frontier post of Salloum, eight of whom had been tortured and required immediate hospitalization.

The Egyptians were expelled even though they had valid work permits and contracts, the papers said.

This latest evidence of friction between Libya and Egypt was sparked last week when three Libyans were arrested in Rome after they arrived from Cairo with weapons and explosives in their luggage.

Official sources in Cairo said the Libyans were to have carried out sabotage and assassination assignments, plus kidnapping and killing Libyan political exiles in Cairo.

After the Rome arrests, seven Libyans were arrested in Cairo. Newspapers reported that they denied any connection with the men held in Rome, accused by Cairo

of trying to kidnap former Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Moneim el-Houmy.

Official sources said on Wednesday 20 other men had since been arrested, some for plotting to kill Maj. Omar Meheishi, another Libyan exile living in Cairo.

Newspapers said the Libyans were organized in sabotage squads of three men each, with a paymaster for each squad. They were all under the direction of the Libyan liaison office in Cairo, the papers said.

Sources said the agents' list of targets also included President Anwar Sadat's brother-in-law, Mahmoud abu Wafaa; Mustafa Amin, editor of the newspaper "Al-Ahram Yom," and Ihsan Abdel Kouddous, chairman of the Al-Ahram publishing house. All have criticized Gaddafi in the past. (AP, Reuters)

Rocky predicts chaos

WASHINGTON. — Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller said yesterday the U.S. "faces absolute chaos" if there is another blow-up in the Middle East.

Rockefeller told the national industrial energy council that the government's proposed Energy Independence Authority was urgently needed to help achieve independence from foreign oil imports.

"The devastating consequences of another Arab oil boycott... would be absolute chaos," he said. (Renter)

Sadat gets Soviet reply

CAIRO. — President Anwar Sadat has received a message from the Soviet leadership in reply to his request for a definition of Moscow's attitude toward Egypt, "Al-Ahram" newspaper said yesterday.

The Soviet reply was delivered to Sadat on Monday when he met Soviet ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov for the first time in several months, it said.

"Al-Ahram" said Sadat sent a letter to Soviet Communist Party

general secretary Leonid Brezhnev last week stating the importance of the Soviet Union defining its position in regard to Egyptian requests.

The newspaper gave no details of the exchange, but Sadat has stated repeatedly that Egypt wanted two things which the Soviets had refused so far — new arms to replace Egyptian losses in the 1973 war with Israel and a rescheduling of Egyptian debts. (UPI)

'Safeguards' for reactors

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told the Senate on Wednesday that nuclear plants being considered by the U.S. for Egypt and Israel will be provided "under safeguards more stringent than anywhere else."

He made the statement before the Senate government operations committee, where he testified on the proliferation of nuclear power and weaponry. Senator Charles Percy (R-IL) asked him about the state of negotiations with Egypt which were initiated last November when President Anwar Sadat was in

Washington. Percy mentioned that some thought the delivery of plans to the Middle East might be "a reckless policy."

Kissinger replied that U.S. arrangements with Egypt "and Israel for that matter" under the "tentative agreements" provide safeguards that include a ban on storing plutonium in either country and a prohibition on reproducing in those countries. Referring to the Egyptian reactor, Kissinger said: "The actual agreement is still under negotiation" and he could not project when it will be concluded. (JTA)

Luxembourg 'no' on PLO bid

Jerusalem Post Correspondent: LUXEMBOURG. — Luxembourg's Social Affairs Minister, Benny Berg, voiced concern here Wednesday at the attempt by Communist and Arab countries to admit the Palestine Liberation Organization to the International Labour Organization.

Berg, a veteran Socialist Trade

Union leader, told Histadrut Secretary-General Yeruham Meshel, who is on a five-day visit to the Grand Duchy, that admission of the PLO would undermine the basic structure of the I.L.O., whose membership is composed of workers' and employers' bodies and governments.

Berg stressed that the PLO does not fall into any of these categories.



Sir Charles Chaplin (better known as Charlie Chaplin), who will be 87 next month, is presented by Princess Anne, president of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, with the trophy of the Academy Fellowship in London this week. Actor Richard Attenborough stands behind the Princess. (AP radiophoto)

Rhodesia seizes Mozambique funds

SALISBURY, Rhodesia. — The Rhodesian government announced yesterday that it has seized, as of today, all funds held in the country by the Mozambique government, Mozambique banks and certain corporations operating in Mozambique.

Minister of Finance David Smith said the action was taken as a result of the border blockade Mozambique announced on March 3 and to protect Rhodesian interests.

The government of Prime Minister Ian Smith is also freezing all outstanding payments owed by Rhodesian residents to Mozambican residents. It will also be obligatory for Rhodesian residents to declare to the government details of all

funds held for or owed by them to Mozambique.

Meanwhile, Joshua Nkomo, leader of the moderate faction in the African National Council (ANC), said before the announcement that he welcomed Mozambique president Samora Machel's closure of Rhodesia's main route to the sea. Nkomo explained to a UPI interviewer here that "I welcome any moves towards solving the problem of our country."

The Mozambique border closure follows an increase in fighting along Rhodesia's 1,120-km. eastern border with the former Portuguese colony. The military wing of the ANC, which opposes Nkomo's negotiations with Smith, is training guerrillas in Mozambique. (AP, UPI)

Lebanon adrift on a sea of violence and revolt

BEIRUT. — Seven weeks into a precarious cease-fire, Lebanon is still drifting toward violence and revolt. Its leaders bicker over how to put the shattered country together again after 10 months of civil war.

Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam of Syria, which forced the truce on Lebanese combatants, has become a virtual viceroy here. But Syria seems to have underestimated the tenacity of Lebanon's religious, social and political enemies.

Lebanon is at the mercy of political factions and swelling discontent and disarray in the 16,000-man army after two major mutinies and several garrisons being overrun by renegade Moslem soldiers.

The result: state authority is openly defied, the army cannot fully perform its security duties, and talk of a military coup is beginning to circulate.

The government has been unable to halt the slide because it is only one of the competing forces — and far from the strongest. Here are the most powerful figures and where they stand:

- President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian, has embraced a Syrian-engineered programme of political reform, designed to answer Moslem demands. But little is known of his position on the makeup of a new government, whose personalities would determine how far the reforms go.
- Premier Karame, a Moslem, had, until he offered his resignation yesterday, been trying to form a broad government under Syrian urging. But the fundamental clash — between right-wing forces seeking reassertion of state authority, and left-wing forces demanding an end to rule

By EDWARD GODY

by the "historic chief" — blocks his efforts.

- Interior Minister Camille Chamoun, a Maronite and one of the historic chiefs, has been the right-wing Christians' chief advocate. He wants a crackdown on army rebels and imposition of security in Beirut before any government is formed or political reforms put into effect.
- Pierre Gemayel, a Maronite whose Phalange Party fielded the largest Christian militia in the civil war, has been Chamoun's chief ally in the "security first" approach.
- Kamal Jumblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party and the most prominent Moslem leftist, has held out for reforms reflecting what he calls "the wind of revolution" in the country.
- Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has, under Syrian patronage, become one of the most powerful men in Lebanon, commander-in-chief of about 8,500 Palestine Liberation Army troops helping maintain security here. His main interest lies in retaining a Lebanese haven for his 12,000 terrorists to launch raids on Israel and turn out propaganda.
- Khaddam has been back several times from Syria since the January 22 cease-fire trying to find a compromise. Despite earlier Christian fears, his strongest pressure has hit the leftists, particularly Jumblatt.
- Jumblatt's forces have only reluctantly accepted the reforms proposed by the Syrian mediators: ending Christian dominance in Parli-

Algerians held after appeal for democracy

ALGIERS. — A group of former Algerian political leaders published an unprecedented appeal to the Algerian people yesterday calling for democratic freedoms and an end to the conflict with Morocco over the Western Sahara. Unconfirmed reports said the members of the group were immediately arrested by security police.

The appeal, signed by four leaders of the independence struggle against French rule, was the first open sign of political dissent to appear within Algeria in nearly a decade.

The signatories included Ferhat Abbas and Ben-Youssef Benkhedda, successive presidents of the pro-independence Algerian government-in-exile, Hocine Lehouel, former secretary-general of the independence movement, and Sheikh Mohamed Kheireddine, former member of the national council of the Algerian revolution.

Unlike numerous dissidents against the regime of President Houar Boumedienne who have fled abroad, the four men are living in Algeria in political retirement and have played no role in the life of the nation since Boumedienne came to power in a military coup in 1965.

Benkhedda personally distributed the signed appeal to a number of foreign news organizations. Algerian officials warned correspondents that any mention of the appeal might be regarded as an offense against state security. There was no mention of the appeal in any Algerian newspaper.

The appeal urged the Algerian people to insist on the free election of a constituent assembly, suppression of "the present totalitarian system" and the Boumedienne personality cult, full freedom of expression for all Algerians and renewal of the friendship with Morocco.

Algeria and Morocco have broken off diplomatic relations and have come to the brink of war over Morocco's annexation of the former Spanish Sahara. (AP)

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Ex-Nazi to head Rotary

CHICAGO. — Rotary International has nominated as its next president an Austrian ex-Nazi, despite protests from Dutch and Israeli Rotarians, an official of the worldwide service organization says.

Dr. Wolfgang Wick, vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the Austro-American Magazine Co. in Radentheim, Austria, was the sole candidate picked earlier this year by an 11-member Rotary nominating committee.

Simon Wiesenthal, the Austrian Jew who since the end of World War II has made a career of hunting ex-Nazis-in-hiding, said Wick held an important economic post from 1935 until early 1945 in Austria.

Wiesenthal said Wick became a Nazi member in 1935, five years before the German occupation of Austria, and in February 1945 was called into the Waffen SS, the Nazi elite army corps, because of his position. (AP)

Israel tied for top in chess

LONE PINE, California. — Miguel Najdorf of Argentina was the first player to draw with Israel's Leonid Shamkovich as the Statham International Chess Tournament moved into a three-way tie after four rounds.

Tied for first place after Wednesday's round, with 3½ of a possible four points, were Shamkovich, former world champion Tigran Petrosian of the Soviet Union and William Martz of the U.S.

With 11 of the world's 60 grandmasters playing, the tournament has taken on considerable stature in the chess world in this six-day event. It was started by Lewis Statham, a wealthy Los Angeles businessman. (AP)

Two killed in Ulster

BELFAST. — Two persons, one a prominent Protestant paramilitary leader, were killed by gunmen in Northern Ireland on Wednesday night, authorities reported.

Sammy Smyth, a leading spokesman for the Protestant Ulster Defence Association on policy and ideology, was shot at his sister's home in North Belfast after answering a knock at the door, police said.

In Drumbeg, in the northeast of the province, gunmen shot dead one man and wounded several others in a bar, authorities said. The killings bring the known death toll in the province's 6½ years of sectarian violence to at least 1,489. (AP)

Women execute Cuban 'rapists'

LUSAKA, Zambia. — An all-women firing squad has executed 17 Cuban soldiers in southern Angola for crimes of "rape and murder," a communique issued yesterday by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said.

The communique quoted a UNITA women's leader, Eunice Sapena, saying more than 25 Cuban troops raped four black women last week at a village between Humbo and Silva Porto, about 500 km. southeast of the Angolan capital, Luanda. (UPI)

One out of 20 jobless in 'have' nations

GENEVA. — Unemployment in 23 industrialized nations reached 18 million or 5.3 per cent of the total work force at the end of last year, the International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) said yesterday.

The total was the highest for the last 40 years with one million more people out of work than in the third quarter of 1975, the I.L.O. said.

At the end of 1974 there were 12 million unemployed in the 23 countries which represented four per cent of the total labour force.

Unemployment is highest in the U.S. and Canada — 7.8 per cent — and lowest in Japan, Australia and New Zealand — 2.2 per cent — the I.L.O. said.

Young persons are the hardest hit, with 10 per cent of working people below 25 years of age out of work, it said. The unemployment rate for women by December reached 6.1 per cent compared to 4.9 per cent for men, it said.

The statistics cover 18 European countries plus the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. While unemployment decreased slightly in the U.S. and Canada

and in Northern Europe during the last quarter of 1975, the I.L.O. said, rates "continued to increase slightly in western and southern Europe."

More than seven million young people, or 41 per cent of all unemployed in December, were people below 25 years old although they constitute only 22 per cent of the total labour force in the 23 countries covered.

Women had far higher unemployment rates than men in the U.S. and Canada: 8.6 per cent against 6.9 per cent in Western Europe; 6.9 per cent against 4.4 per cent, and in southern Europe: 6 per cent against 4.4 per cent.

Unemployment rates for men and women were the same in Japan, Australia and New Zealand — 2.2 per cent — while in northern Europe the female unemployment rate was lower — 4.6 per cent against 6.1 per cent for males.

Unemployed women numbered 7½ million, or 40 per cent of the total unemployed, whereas they accounted for 35 per cent of the total labour force, the I.L.O. said. (UPI)



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Sunday, March 28, 1976 at 8.30 p.m.

Tickets: Union, Hadran, Kastel, Cameri box office.

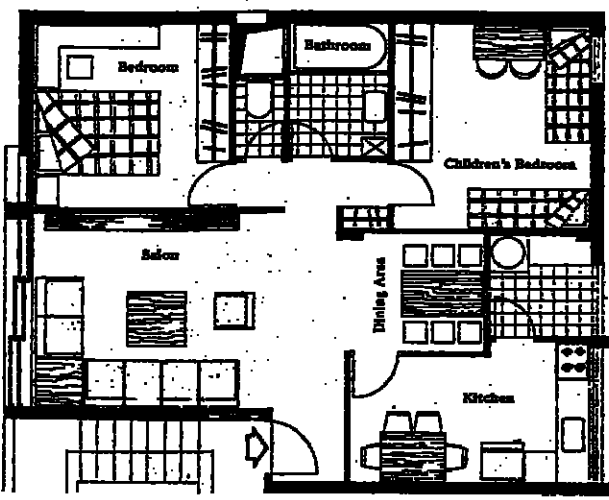
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Tickets: Garber, Mt. Carmel.

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Vladimir Tsukerman (right) and cameraman Valery Halpern.

Russian film-man impresses

FILM /
SIMSON CARLBACH

VLADISLAV TSUKERMAN, a young Russian immigrant filmmaker, has been working in Israel since his arrival here in 1972. His documentary films have received world-wide recognition, and like many successful TV directors, he nurtures the ambition to make feature-film making. An understandable ambition; but in this country, especially, not an easy one to realize.

Whereas Soviet scientists, technicians and engineers have been, more or less, successfully absorbed into our relevant institutions and industries, those trained in film work have had a hard time of it. They make up a significant proportion of the disillusioned immigrants who have sought greener pastures elsewhere, extending their journey of freedom further westward.

Tsukerman's first Israeli film was a ten-minute short made under the auspices of the Jewish Agency — standard procedure for newly-arrived film makers — and called, "Moscow Doesn't Answer." Composed largely of stills and recorded telephone conversations — some of which were abruptly and dramatically cut short — it featured the plight of Jewish physicists, Prof. Alexander Voronel and Marc Zabel, and the young prodigy, Eugene Levich. Voronel and Levich are now working in Israel, while the film has gone on to become one of the staples of the Jewish Agency archives, shown in Jewish communities all over the world.

In May, 1974, he shot his first full-length television documentary, "Russians in Jerusalem." The film traces the pilgrimage and missionary history of White Russians, headed by the Russian Orthodox Church, to the Holy Land, and highlights the current, ongoing disputes between them and their Red brothers over property in Israel and claims on national allegiances. Tsukerman's sophisticated shooting techniques, coupled with in-depth research, gained the film two first prizes — Best Director and Best Documentary Film — at the 1975 Hollywood Festival of World TV Films.

THERE'S A STORY behind his next film, "Night of Decision," says Tsukerman's producer, Naomi Kaplan. "It was preparing an archaeological film to be shot in Iran, and sought advice from Yigal Yadin. 'You live in the Old City,' Yadin said, 'and you want to go to Iran; while right under your

nose, one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever has just been uncovered. Guess what this is,' he said, pulling out of a matchbox a small piece of burnt wood. 'It's a small piece of burnt wood,' I said. 'Wrong,' Yadin replied. It's the first bit of sure evidence to testify to the destruction of Jerusalem. They've uncovered a Jewish house of the Roman period that tells us not only what a Jewish household of the time was like, but establishes the fact — until now we only had Josephus' historical report — that a great fire raged through and destroyed ancient Jerusalem. And so, 'A Jerusalem Stone' was born."

The film records the now famous archaeological dig in the Old City, and though it had to be shot with haste since the construction of new buildings on and around the site could not be delayed, it bears Tsukerman's distinguishing trademark of lively and complex cinematography (his cameraman, Valery Halpern, another Russian immigrant, shot most of the film with the camera held low against the hips — controlled by the hand rather than the eye, as it were) and a purposeful, punchy, script. (Tsukerman always writes his own scripts.) The film is now due to be shown on cable television on the west coast of the U.S., and the B.B.C. also is negotiating with the Israel Broadcasting Authority for rights to the film.

Television documentaries are not necessarily good indicators of feature-film talent, and Tsukerman brought to The Post a copy of a short twenty-minute feature he made in Russia, "Night of Decision," was banned by the Soviet authorities, and eventually smuggled out of the country.

Under the guise of explaining principles related to physics (he made science documentaries in Russia), Tsukerman constructs the story of a man hard-pressed to come to a decision, trapped in his own mind within the philosophical debate of free-will vs. determinism. The film, of course, seeks to expose the tight control of the state over freedom of the individual, but it is mainly Tsukerman's method that is so impressive. The film contains many speed-motion sequences, sharp-angled shootings, and wickedly-delicious dialogue, that deliver an overall impact reserved to film makers who know how to use the camera as an expressive voice, extensions of themselves.

The film was shown at the 1975 Filmex Festival in Los Angeles (a prize of sorts in itself), and all of Tsukerman's films mentioned here will be screened at the Tel Aviv University Film Club on March 22. It

More day-nurseries and a long school-day could help Israeli women to improve their status, says Ora Namir, M.K. and head of a panel on women's status.

Social services need more funds

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

WITH DAY NURSERIES in disadvantaged communities facing critical financial difficulties, Ora Namir is disappointed in the Knesset. She would have liked to see more, not less, progress in the areas of social service and education, even if this means a smaller relative percentage increase in the defence budget.

Knesset Member Ora Namir, who is also secretary of Irgun Imahot Ovdot (Working Mothers' Organization) in Tel Aviv, held a press conference earlier this week to announce the organization's bazaar which will open next Sunday evening. The bazaar will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday at Beit Hahayal and will, it is hoped, help decrease the budget deficit of about IL1,400,000.

"Last year, I tabled a motion in the Knesset on the subject of day nurseries. A subcommittee was formed and it was decided to raise the monthly payment to IL400. But even that is no longer enough. As of April 1, it will cost us IL450 a month per child. Some of my colleagues suggest raising the price. But even now, out of 1,400 children in our institutions, only one percent of the mothers pay the highest rate, we want mothers to go out to work, but the more it costs to keep their children in a day nursery the fewer mothers will work outside the home."

Mrs. Namir, who is also chairman of the Prime Minister's Committee on the Status of Women, thinks this will not improve unless services such as day nurseries and the long school day are available. "Men and women do not start at the same point. Even when the husband helps in the house, he doesn't have the same worries about raising the family, cooking, cleaning, laundering, etc. If we want the woman to be equal on the job, we must help her, must also see that the good laws we have here are really enforced."

Mindful of the Knesset Committee experience, Mrs. Namir was reluctant to accept the chairmanship of the Status of Women Committee. When she did decide to take it, she resolved that the committee would not bite off



Ora Namir (Israel Sun)

more than it could chew, and would keep its own expectations, and those of the public, from rising too high. "I think one of the important issues we will have to grapple with is the image of women in the eyes of men and in their own eyes."

"I saw part of the programme about women on 'The Third Hour.' I found it not only boring but also insulting. This series has recently been devoted to social problems such as homosexuality and drugs and the fact that they did a programme about women now hurt me a bit. Also, it was a programme done by men, with all the usual drawbacks."

The committee, whose members will include all the women Knesset members and women from the Histadrut, women's organizations, the academic world, kibbutzim and all other sectors, will also try to shake women out of their complacency. "Part of the problem is that women are too indifferent, not only to what is going on around them but also to their own status and position in society."

DO WOMEN Knesset members band together across party lines as younger male Knesset members seem to do? "First of all, I don't think there is really a group of young Knesset members. It's a matter of two or three people. We women don't have a forum of our

own and tend to function within our own political parties." Not all women Knesset members she noted, are interested in the same things.

"The Knesset doesn't only make laws. Supposedly, we supervise the government. This breeds conflicts with top officials of the ministries who find our interference annoying. On the two committees on which I serve — the Education Committee and the Public Services Committee — Knesset members from the Labour Party are a more vocal and serious opposition to the executive branch than those from the opposition parties."

I asked Mrs. Namir how she feels about the proposed abortion law. "I am extremely pleased that there is a section legalizing abortions for women with large families and/or economic difficulties. Of course, I would prefer family planning, but we aren't yet ready for that. As for unmarried women, they will also be able to have abortions legally. Those who can afford it have them today, illegally, but I think we must worry first and foremost about those who cannot afford to buy services on the open market."

There are some services, such as day nurseries and the long school day, which should be available to everyone. They represent equality of opportunity in two ways: equal opportunity for women competing on the job with men, and equal opportunity for deprived children to catch up to the others. But even though some services must be for everyone, we have to help most those who are incapable of helping themselves."

Mrs. Namir, whose calendar was particularly crowded in this pre-bazaar week, had to end our post-press conference interview in order to have time for a quick lunch before a lecture engagement. As she rose to leave, she returned for a moment to Irgun Imahot Ovdot's problems. "We didn't take in any additional children this year, and I am afraid that next year we will not be able to increase our services. In fact, I hope we won't have to close some of our institutions. The bazaar covers proportionately less of our deficit each year. We need help from the government; unfortunately for social services, despite their potential importance to our future security, there is no money. That is my biggest fight with the Finance Ministry."



The Chagall painting "The Farm," presented by U.S. banker David Rockefeller to Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek for the Israel Museum. In return, Israeli painter, Anna Ticho, gave Mr. Rockefeller a drawing of the Jerusalem hillsides.

My brother's keeper

STAMPS /
HARVEY WOLINETZ

THE ATTITUDES and values of a nation and its people are often reflected in its postage stamps. Such has been the case with a number of stamps which have demonstrated Israel's concern for its citizens and fellow-Jews.

In 1964 the Philatelic Service released a 25 agora stamp to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the start of "Aliya Bet," during which 140 vessels brought thousands of so-called "illegal" immigrants to Palestine. The operation, which spanned the years 1934-1948, was in defiance of the British blockade which tried to halt Jewish immigration into Palestine. The stamp shows a boat nearing the coast of Palestine.



Blockade Runner (1976)

under cover of night. The blockade-runners was also the theme of the 2nd Independence Day issue in 1960.

In 1970, two separate stamps showed Israeli concern for Jews living in Arab countries. The first was a 30 agora stamp marking the 20th anniversary of the completion of "Operation Magic Carpet," the airlift operation which brought 75,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel. The design shows a plane made of carpet. This theme was also contained in part of the 1980 issue for World Refugee Year.

The second issue was an 80 agora

stamp released for the 20th anniversary of "Operation Ezra and Nehemiah," the name given to the airlift which helped bring most of Iraq's Jewish community to Israel. Between May 1950 and the end of 1953, nearly 125,000 Iraqi Jews were brought to this country.

In 1972 another Israeli stamp



Operation Magic Carpet (1970)

demonstrated that this concern for oppressed Jewry continues. The 55 agora stamp recognized that the "Jews of Silence," long imprisoned in the Soviet Union, had become the "Jews of Protest." It further reminded the world that the remnant of Arab Jewry, living in hourly danger and in miserable conditions and prevented from emigrating, also cry out for help. The stamp, which carried the slogan "Let My People Go" in Hebrew, English, Russian and Arabic, is a further philatelic expression of the efforts made by Israel and the Jewish people on behalf of their brethren.

ROCK AND ROLL

IN THE LATEST offering of average white band CUT THE CAKE (Atlantic Records K 50146), the panache is gone. The question is, has the skill remained? The ten musical slices served to us by the new line-up show how much they miss the drive of the late White and McIntosh. The title track has the solid disco beat reminiscent of their earlier album, and is a guaranteed show-starter. But get on that dance floor fast if you're the yearning, 'cause you'll be sitting out the rest of the tracks. The band must seek new directions to keep it from stagnating — a disc worth listening to, but not more than once. (B.B.)

Cast in the role of a tree

IT OCCURS TO ME /
HADASSAH BAT HAIM

WITHOUT WISHING to dissociate myself in any way from the displays of gaiety and abandon with which we celebrate the triumph of the goodies over the baddies it has been a considerable relief to be concerned with my own adornment only. One by one my children have grown out of and rejected my attempts to make them into pirates and wild animals, chimney-sweeps and Oriental queens. But in assuming that my declining years would be peacefully uninterrupted by demands for cats' tails or Roman helmets, I had not reckoned with the younger generation.

At first glance, Jonathan's requirements do not appear to be complicated. The second grade is going to enact some kind of arboreal fantasy and my grandson has a leading role as a tree. On the whole the casting is suitable. His absentmindedness is so acute that

a speaking part would endanger the whole performance, but for a tree to give the impression of existing in a dream is perfectly proper. An air of aloofness adds a touch of class such as might be conveyed by a stately oak or a majestic beech. He will have to be restrained, of course, from the sudden eruptions of energy which send him up the side of a house to jump off the roof. It would never do for a tree to turn a somersault in the dust. Dignified progression, we advise him, should be his aim, so as to seem to be simply swaying in the breeze rather than taking steps. This image will not exactly be furthered when he has to join hands with the other trees and dance in a circle. It would be better if the inhabitants of the wood could dance round him and this would also prevent his leaves from falling and turning the early spring into autumn.

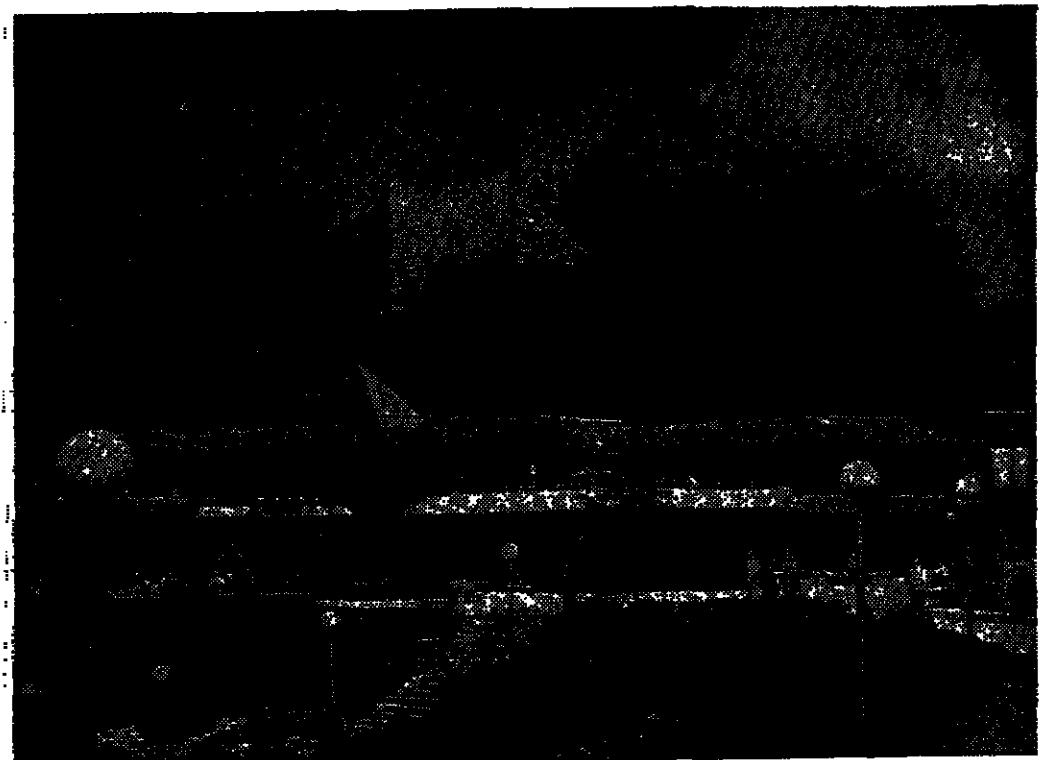
It is unexpectedly difficult to manufacture a nest to fix onto his hair. One would imagine that if birds can do it, a human being should be able to do it better. No doubt it is a matter of practice but

ours is a very precarious edifice. He complains that the branches we have strapped round his chest are stopping his circulation, so instead of the upright, palm type of tree we had envisaged we have to make do with something like a willow in a deep depression. Twigs on his jersey and a couple of gnarled roots dangling from his waist exhaust our ingenuity. He doesn't look much like a tree, but he certainly doesn't look like anything else.

KEY-MONEY

The article on the legal aspects of key-money will appear in next Friday's Magazine. The word "next" was inadvertently dropped from the notice on this page yesterday.

Health and Bank Accounts should not be used up...



BADENWEILER in the Black Forest even served the Romans as a place to recuperate.

Health is a state of equilibrium between physical capacity and activity. Keeping fit is to retain this equilibrium.

One of the ways to achieve this is to undergo spa treatment, using the natural, health-giving qualities provided by nature for man.

Germany has been blessed with a multitude of spas and health resorts:

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- 28 for childhood diseases,
- 3 for eye complaints.

The German National Tourist Office, represented in Israel by Lufthansa, can provide you with information on German spas and health resorts: where they are, what they are good for, current rates and how to get there. Lufthansa, through your Travel Agent, can book your reservation, your accommodation and whatever additional requirements you may have.

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★

No auction this week —
Purim

★

Next Auction
No. 51
March 23, 1976

DEAD SEA WORKS LTD

NOTICE

TO HOLDERS OF 5% DEBENTURES 1978-1987

The interest due on March 31, 1976, on the 5 per cent Debentures 1978-1987 will be paid as follows:

TO HOLDERS OF BEARER DEBENTURES —

Payment will be effected against coupon No. 9 by the paying agents, Bank Leumi, B.M., at their head office in Tel Aviv or through any of their branches or through any other bank.

TO HOLDERS OF REGISTERED DEBENTURES —

Payment will be made by cheque directly by the Company to the last known registered address of the Debenture holder.

Debenture holders who have changed their address and have not notified the company thereof should immediately advise their correct address to the company at P.O.B. 212, Jerusalem.

The registers of the Debentures will be closed from March 16 to 31, 1976.

In accordance with the linkage terms, as specified on the Debenture Certificate, interest will be paid less income tax of 25% only.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A. Cohen
Secretary

NEW ★ CLEAN LAUNDRY IN 4 MINUTES ★ NEW

Laundry is no longer a problem

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E B D Washing Machines

made in West Germany
from Best-Fryal stainless steel.

Contains heating element — boils ★ washes 1½ kg. (dry weight) of whites in 4 min. ★ synthetics washed in 2 min. ★ woollens washed in 1 min. ★ electricity consumption 240 Watts ★ special washing powders not necessary; you can also use ordinary laundry soap

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From all appliance dealers

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ELECTRONICS 2000 LTD.

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SALE, Bayit Vegan, charming 3 rooms, dinette, closets, view. Lin-Dar Real Estate, 30 King George, Tel. 02-511706, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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JERUSALEM POST

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Buffet, veneered in 2.70 polisher IL2,250
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Ramat Gan: 58 Rehov Jabotinsky, Tel. 02-729707
Ashdod: Industrial Centre B, Tel. 32501

Petah Tikva: 4 Rehov Ussishkin, near Beit Rasco.

We are seeking a copy of the Hebrew version of the film

"Haim Hadashim" (A New Life)

produced by Keren Hayesod in the year 1935, in seven language versions, including Hebrew. Since 1947 there has been no record of the Hebrew version. A copy could possibly be in the possession of an institute or settlement, or in private hands. Anyone who can be of assistance in locating a copy - or some reels, if not the full version - is requested to contact:

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THE TIME HAS COME, it seems to me, to re-examine certain basic truths which, even if now perhaps in eclipse, still form the foundation stones of our national rebirth and of our ability to continue putting down roots in the region. And it is all the more urgent that we do so, given the worrying signs of disintegration in the Establishment (governing and opposition) on the one hand and the growing loss of direction in wider and wider circles of the population — young and old, veteran and new.

The need for us to have such a talk with ourselves can be seen in the familiar kind of diatribes that characterize the typical Friday night gathering in Israeli homes: the talk about the disturbing personal relations among the leaders of all parties — but especially in the ruling party; about the parties' growing loss of the power to function; about the wave of emigration and the shrinkage of immigration; about the weakening of the rule of law and the signs of moral decline; about the difficult geopolitical and economic conditions in which we have been since the Yom Kippur War and the world economic crisis; about the continuing and glaring erosion in the status of democratic systems in the world, and especially in that of the United States; and so forth.

These would be enough to worry the citizens of any state in the world. How much more then for us, when after 28 years of sovereign independence we still see above our heads a question mark about our right to exist as a people in its own state, while deadly instruments of mass destruction are being assembled to try to turn that question mark into a full-stop. And the question mark is meanwhile kept there not just by our sworn enemies and their satellites but by our friends as well, and even by born Israelis, some of whom are ready to go and graze in foreign fields, to wander on through history as homeless and deracinated men.

The same people and society who, a few decades ago, were able to function as a full sovereign entity (to run an underground army, their own internal government and own separate economy) despite the lack of all the tools of formal sovereignty — today find themselves hard put, though deploying many and powerful such tools, to steer the Israeli ship of state through the objective and subjective reefs and shoals on the way to the end of the seventies.

Yet is our situation really as bad now as it was when Tel Hai fell in 1920? Or during the great slaughter in Hebron and the Arab destruction of Hula in 1929? Or in the "wall-and-watchtower" period of the thirties, the Holocaust, the time of rebellion, "illegal" immigration and the War of Independence?

But we needn't go as far back as that. Even more recent evidence isn't of much use. Does anyone draw reassurance from the fact that, militarily speaking, the Yom Kippur War was the greatest victory in the history of the Jewish people? Is anyone consoled by the fact that when the Soviet Union was attacked in 1940 in a similar manner (and after being forewarned), and with enemy forces no larger but spread over a hugely longer line, it had to fall back hundreds of kilometres to Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad, and pay the price of twenty million dead and three years of cruel war on its territory, while Israel — attacked by an equally huge force concentrated on two tiny fronts — was able to stop the Syrians in three days and the Egyptians in 12, and to finish the fighting with its fronts 40 km. from Damascus and 100 km. from Cairo?

Does anyone grasp the meaning of such facts as: that Israel lost more tanks in the Yom Kippur War than were in active service that year in the French Army? That Israel has the highest density of doctors in the world, the highest ratio of teachers to pupils, and that its Gross National Product in 1975 was greater than that of Egypt?

Why is it that these and other facts, objectively so impressive, fail to reach us and, more important, fail to move our society in a positive direction, to inspire and to please us? Is it that we've lost our vision,

NEED FOR VISION

In 1927, during an earlier crisis of confidence, David Ben-Gurion was interrupted at a meeting outside Jerusalem's Hebrew Gymnasium by a heckler shouting: "Leader, give us an answer, give us bread!" His answer was "I have no bread, but I do have a vision." Dov Ben-Meir, secretary of the Labour Party's Tel Aviv District branch, explains how vision can and must get us out of our present difficulties.

forgotten where the road we have been following for the past 100 years leads?

In my opinion, there are no grounds for this pessimism, and all the reason in the world to remain enthusiastic. We have all it takes — in human and economic resources — to conquer new heights, if only we can see the future clearly and pass on the message to the masses. Why, then, the depression, the sense of helplessness and drift? Let us look into some of the causes.

The painful path of Jewish existence.

From the time the Jewish people in the middle of the last century began to follow the path of other national movements, towards a sovereign national existence whose end was an independent state, and until the Yom Kippur War, a Messianic fluttering of angels' wings sounded in its ears, especially in those of its Zionists. Even opponents felt they were seeing at least the beginning of redemption for this exiled and abused people.

And then came the Yom Kippur War, and with it both the political and economic ebb of Israel and the worldwide process we are now witnessing — the current crumbling of the pillars of the (Western, white and democratic) world into which we were born and in which we grew up. Above all: that safe and promised shore on which we seemed nearly to have set our feet is now seen to be receding. It becomes clearer and clearer to us that the same fate of going on living "in spite of" things that has characterized us for 4,000 years — the fate that brought our ancestors to the inglorious state in Spain, and our parents and brothers to the gas chambers while yet commanding us to go on — is now tapping on our sovereign, strong and independent back and telling us: "You must, whether you like it or not, go on with your sovereignty, building, strengthening and maintaining it for all the generations to come: in spite of the difficulties, present and predicted." For the future of our existence as Jews must be in the condition of sovereignty, even when sovereignty loses some of its glow for this or that reason.

Now, despair is nothing new in our so far short modern history in our land: even in the days of the Second Aliya it led to mass emigration. But the present situation calls for closer examination.

There is of course the deflation of the provincial and Levantine sense of national morale — of being a "mini-power," the appraisals of which countries (Italy, Turkey, etc.) we could take on if a war broke out between us — that had been fanned before the last war by retired officers and cheap politicians. But this boasting was to begin with mere surface froth. It is the underlying causes which we must examine, and indeed dare not ignore:

• The dragging on of the Arab-Israeli dispute. At the beginning of the 'fifties there was a heady period of "peace in our time," when the only question was how many years or months it would take to settle the problem (Ben-Gurion appears to have believed it would take only a few hours of closed-door conversation with Nasser). The Yom Kippur War suddenly showed us that not only did an smashing military victory as in 1967 fail to move the Arabs towards peace, but that not even the repulse of the Arab pride injured in 1948 was enough to satisfy them. Many finally realized that the dispute may go on for ages (as did



Dov Ben-Meir

similar ones in Europe). We suddenly awakened to the fact that neither a soft (dovish) nor hard (hawkish) hand can bring us the desired solution — and that we must get used to the idea of living with, and constantly maintaining the balance of, a situation that is neither war nor peace: not for days or years but for decades.

• The sad side of being "a people that shall dwell alone." The brief intermezzo of nine years, between the 1947 partition resolution and the Soviet threat of sanctions in 1956, was long enough to arouse in many the expectation (and in some the conviction) that the world's hostility — grounded in Christianity — to the Jews had finally ceased. The discovery that not even in so assiduously de-Christianized a land as the Soviet Union is this actually the case, and the spectacle of the hostility spreading to new and primitive peoples — their mass rupture of relations during the Yom Kippur War and attempts to exclude Israel from the international community since then — have proved profoundly depressing.

We are, of course, not the only victims of this kind of thing. The present is turning out to be a period of cruelty to match that of Europe during the Crusades or the barbarian invasions: witness the severing of Cyprus, the collapse of Lebanon and the conquest of Angola, to say nothing of what awaits Taiwan, Rumania and Yugoslavia when their large neighbours decide to move. But against all that has happened to us in our history it is all the harder to bear, and only the thick glass of sovereignty keeps it from feeling worse.

• The sour fruits of being "a free people in our own land." Blalik once said (perhaps apocryphally) that the Jews would be a normal people when you could see a Jewish cop and a Jewish whore in Tel Aviv. Having seen this, and the like achieved, many now wonder if we are not disintegrating from within, not realizing that much of their feeling is an objective result of the realization of the ideal of independence under the special conditions placed upon us.

For: We have had the special strain of living up to the image of an idealistic society, a goal which others have not

set before themselves. Of going against the stream, migrating from the city to the country and lowering rather than raising material standards in return for achieving a society based on human values, and then feeling all of a sudden that that society is not functioning.

We have, as an independent people, had to take painful political decisions over the last 28 years, each of which has caused divisions and a sense of disintegration in the people when actually such decisions are an integral and unavoidable part of any state's life.

We have had to absorb immigration on a scale not even dreamed of by any other country — one which would have had the U.S. absorbing 500 million immigrants in 28 years (and in that time the U.S. has not even been able to face up to the challenge of its 25 million black citizens and of two million Puerto Ricans).

We have had to build an economy in a hurry, and did so — achieving in many years a growth rate of 5-12 per cent. But at the cost of incalculable social damage from the false basis of substandard management, productivity, quality and so forth which we tolerated in order to get things established, and with which we now find ourselves saddled.

We have had to put up with a lack of changes of power — with a totalitarian establishment whose totalitarianism is none the less so far having come about and being continued by strictly democratic means. For the Israeli voter, is forced by the constant Arab threat of physical destruction to cling to and strengthen the Establishment in order that the latter may maintain the strong army and stable state structure he needed to face the threat. And the recent fate of the Kurds and of Lebanon have only made this trend the stronger. But the situation, and the political fate of all who have stepped outside the establishment — from Jabotinsky and Ben-Gurion to Shulamit Aloni and Lova Ellav — are a deep source of frustration, especially for a large part of the intelligentsia.

How do we pull ourselves out?

As there is no question but that most of our crisis is a psychological one — of getting used again to a situation of hostility which in fact was always there — the answer lies in a great educational effort, to enable us indeed to see ourselves properly again, as still part of a great moment of national rebirth. And this requires personal, day-to-day involvement, of every individual, as in the past. But, again as in the past, it will not be achieved by preaching, but by action in the realization of vision. For our strength has always laid in action, with the accompanying vision there to move things along. Every sweet fruit we eat now (as well as the bitter ones) is the result of such vision, often conceived at the darkest of times. The State of Israel has fallen into an ambush symbolized by what happened in October 1973; like any Israeli army patrol in such a situation, it must storm the ambush — through a new surge forward that will pull along those of little faith and say something to the native Israeli toying with the idea of driving a taxi in New York.

How we do this is through setting new goals, goals which will unite the people as of old around achieving them. Is it really so hard to find projects that would attract the best of the youth here and in the Diaspora,

as did the great goals of the pre-independence period? (And it must be remembered that the truly active have always been a minority.)

Some immediate projects would be:

• An extra year of national service for Israeli and Jewish youth. This would be a year of work (as already practiced by some kibbutzim) after army service, in a frontier village or depressed area, as dictated by long-range national planning. Religious youth would help develop religious institutions (like the frontier yeshivot on the Golan). Overseas youth would come not for "workshops" but for a year of hard physical labour, which would produce a new and fresher atmosphere.

• A State youth-movement. Creation of this has so far been blocked by the existing youth-movements, which have however been fading in the absence of pioneering challenges. The idea of an extra year of service would provide the basis for revival, and a national movement could channel the effort. Thus we could restore the movements' idealistic and educational content, and once again deal with all our youth on a basis of positive values rather than through the programmes of busy work and entertainment that characterize the present youth centre approach.

• A special Jewish University. This could perhaps provide for the overseas youth who come for their year of service, and would after three years of study enable them to continue their education in their countries of origin (if they so wished). It would at the same time be a Zionist-Jewish university which would take on such special tasks as preparing cadres for work in the Diaspora; study of theoretical questions concerning the relation of the people of Israel — the Jewish people — to the Land of Israel; re-creation of the Israeli-Jewish tradition as a light for those Jews who remain abroad; and so forth.

• A new city, Sha'ar Ha-Aliya (Gate of Aliya). This would be planned and built entirely by immigrants (but in keeping with national planning, and with a 25-per-cent proportion of native Israelis to keep it from being too much in the image of the Diaspora). The settler here would buy his home and move his effects completely without having to go through the official absorption apparatus. And such a city, of say 250,000 people, would not only have a beneficial political effect; most importantly, it would affect social and behavioural norms in a way that would pave the way to more immigration.

• 150 new settlements in the Negev, between the Rafiah Approaches and Beersheba. This would call for the establishment of a "settlement army" of 20,000 youth, and should be accompanied by the establishment of a massive water-desalination plant.

There are many more projects: increasing the Jewish population of Galilee; strengthening Jerusalem and its vicinity — a project of first importance, which should begin with transferring army headquarters to the Capital; and revival of the Lower Merik plan for the Jordan, perhaps with a canal from the Mediterranean to the river in order to generate huge amounts of electricity which might tempt the Jordanians into cooperating with us and accepting a free port at Haifa.

These are but some of the visions now gathering dust in drawers. But it must be remembered that Israel was built by men of vision — that it belongs to the dreamers who act, not to the sharp-witted wheelers and dealers. We must now revive the Zionist vision in all its aspects. Before the establishment of the state such outside pressures as the Mandate and the Holocaust kept it alive. Let us now use the pressures of independence in the same way, so that rather than serving as an excuse for pessimism these will provide a springboard. For only thus will vision return. And only thus can we assure our ability to put down irrestructible roots in this stormy part of the world.

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The national cake is smaller than we think

By DR. MOSHE ATER
Jerusalem Post Economic Editor

In our recent preoccupation with budgets, forecasts, and premonitions, too little attention has been paid to the annual report of the Institute for Research of Output and Income, analysing our past development.

The report came out this year with commendable speed, to provide a guideline for the current wage negotiations. And it covers new ground.

Its novel feature is the step beyond the usual notion of GNP as a base for computing national productivity, and the respective shares of labour and capital in the national income. The new term of reference is the economy's business or industrial product (IP) — a concept developed in recent years, which includes only the net part of goods and services produced locally by private people and firms.

The IP differs from the GNP in that it does not include income owed to foreign factors, and in that it takes depreciation of assets into account. Moreover, it does not include the services provided in kind by the public sector — the state, the municipalities, and the voluntary institutions. Lastly, it excludes the tenancy of dwellings, which represents consumption but no new production.

Without delving into statistical niceties one may say that by and large it is this part of the GNP which people have in mind when speaking of the national cake. Moreover, it is the only part of the GNP

which is directly subject to the impact of market forces. Still, why depart from the conventional GNP? First, the difference between IP and GNP is larger than one tends to presume. Second, their ratio is not at all stable. In this country at least it has been declining rapidly. In 1972 IP accounted for 69 per cent of our GNP. In 1973 it accounted for 69 per cent of our GNP. In 1974 for only 56 per cent. And this year its share is likely to decrease further.

Between 1972 and 1975 Israel's GNP increased 10 per cent. That was but a shadow of the economic growth achieved before the Yom Kippur War, but still respectable compared with the poor performance of most other countries. It was about the same rate as that of population growth, thus seemingly in line with the goal of keeping consumption per capita at its pre-war level.

However, our IP advanced only 3 per cent during that period. The national cake therefore declined a full 7 per cent, more than anyone had suggested. Last year the GNP declined 1.8 per cent, but the drop in our IP was 3.9 per cent, while population increased 2.3 per cent.

Are the GNP figures misleading? Not at all. But they must be understood. While an economy's gross product may grow, even in terms of constant prices, this need not spell a parallel accrual of the balance available for private consumption. In an economy subject to rapid inflation and devaluation, payments abroad (foreign debt service, royalties, dividends to foreign shareholders) steadily gain in relative weight. Depreciation of assets

also grows, because a considerable part of equipment and materials represents imports.

In an economy engaged in a housing boom, the annual worth of residential tenancy grows more than other outputs. Lastly, the share of public services in the GNP increases in line with expansion of administration and defence efforts. Since all of these have combined in Israel in the past few years, it is small wonder that the GNP left over for actual consumption has steadily declined.

In the previous reports the picture was blurred not only by the inclusion of non-relevant parts of the GNP, but also because the product of public services — which carries no price-tag — cannot be measured, and is therefore conventionally presumed to reflect the amount of the salaries involved and to grow in line with the public wage bill. This hardly makes sense in our current situation.

Properly calculated, our average productivity (i.e. the ratio of the economy's product to the number of man-days worked) has advanced substantially less than was assumed.

Moreover, both documents put the blame for last year's decline in productivity on the accumulation of redundant labour. Both expect some of these workers to be dismissed in the course of time, so as to increase output per worker even if the total product does not grow. However, militant opposition, hindered shifts of the labour force, even to other lines of production.

This brings us straight to the crucial issue. The division of a shrinking national cake between labour and

capital must become increasingly difficult. On the other hand, pressure groups can obstruct attempts to increase the cake by adjusting economic production.

The Israel economy could shoulder the steady rise in wage costs in the past because it was accompanied by a price rise and by a decline in our foreign exchange rate. Indeed the wage rise often lagged behind the price creep.

However, average yield of invested capital declined by about one third in that period, partly owing to additional investments (prompted by a labour shortage and rising wage costs), partly from inadequate utilization of the existing capital assets, and partly from the soaring cost of equipment.

It is a moot point whether the wage-earners' disposable real income (which depends also on sundry fringes, and fiscal and other charges) remained stationary in the past few years. It is also debatable to what extent the decline in operating income has been offset by various government grants and benefits. But one can hardly escape the impression that the trend outlined above has been a major factor in our economic malaise.

As our "national cake" decreased, we have increased the share accorded to labour (from 72 per cent of the IP in 1972, to 75 per cent last year). This response may be fair and equitable as far as it goes. But as a result we are now finding ourselves driven towards a recession, while resumption of economic growth based on export markets can hardly be expected without greatly improving the would-be investors' profit prospects.



French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing accompanies Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as he reviews an honour guard of French soldiers at Orly Airport last year. But the Egyptian President's state visit — and similar visits by other Arab leaders — failed to gain customers for French industry. (UPI)

French find Arabs don't always pay for political favours

By JOHN VINOCUR

PARIS. — The French government's aggressively pro-Arab foreign policy, conducted in tacit expectation of billions of dollars in trade, has brought a commercial yield much smaller than expected.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has ordered the foreign trade ministry to explain where the non-military contracts were lost, but the answers could be deeply embarrassing.

An informed French official said initial indications showed: That French politicians dealing directly with Arab countries, either deliberately distorted for home consumption, or misunderstood, despite expert technical advice, the Arabs' commercial intentions. That French manufacturers, convinced by government officials that they were the Arabs' privileged friends in the West, may have padded their contract bids out of competitive range on the assumption that political pull would make up the difference.

The most striking example of France's difficulties, the informant said, was the loss last week of a billion-dollar contract for the construction of a petrochemical complex in Iraq to the German-American Thyssen-Lussum group. After visits to Iraq and conciliatory political statements by Premier Jacques Chirac, the contract was expected to go to the French Creusot-Loire industries group. In fact, the informant said, the French bid is believed to have been 30 to 40 per cent over the German-American offer.

The claims of contracts and agreements in principle with the Arab world and the oil exporting countries go back to early 1974. At that time, France abandoned the

even-handed Middle East policy approach of most of its European neighbours and began openly courting the Arab nations and OPEC countries.

A series of high-level visits, notably to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran followed. The pattern was generally the same. The visitor would sign a political communiqué in which the French would lean closer to the Arab cause than any of its allies. On returning home, the press was told about the remarkable contracts for French goods that would grow out of the new friendship.

Both Saudi Arabia and Iraq, French officials said, were to purchase French nuclear facilities. Neither has done so.

But figures of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the group comprising the major non-Communist industrial powers, show that countries which were criticized by the Arabs as being pro-Israel, such as the U.S., Holland, West Germany and Sweden, actually have improved their non-military trade with the Middle East more than the French. The statistics indicate this is even true for the nine-nation Common Market as a whole.

The government itself produced some of the most damaging evidence concerning the French lack of success. Its Banque Française pour le Commerce Extérieur published a bulletin in September 1975, saying "France was maintaining its position with difficulty" in the export to OPEC countries.

In fact, the bank wrote that while France's share of the OPEC market was dropping by 0.4 per cent in 1974, all the other main exporters except Britain were reinforcing their positions. This situ-

ation developed at the same time France was saying it preferred to deal individually with its oil suppliers, rejecting membership in the U.S.-backed International Energy Agency.

A French trade official, asked to comment about the statistics, said that "the first years of our efforts in the Middle East were not necessarily indicative of our success there."

One of the reasons, he said, was that capital equipment orders usually take up to 36 months to appear in records. He said that about \$2,500m. of heavy equipment orders made in 1974 would be turning up in the 1977 figures.

He also noted that the statistics did not include arms sales. "If you include these," he said, "the picture changes in our favour rapidly." The informant who disclosed the investigation into bid padding indicated that France was losing its competitiveness because it cannot offer the same facilities for financing projects that the U.S. or West Germany can. This was not expected to be a problem when the French made their initial Arab-oriented calculations in 1973, but only Kuwait in 1976 has avoided becoming a borrower nation. (AP)

Maritime Fruit meeting over cash crisis

By MARK SEGAL
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Creditors and bankers of the Israel-American Maritime Fruit Carriers met here this week with the company's new chief executive, Struve Hensel, in an effort to solve the shipping group's cash crisis.

Since their last meeting three weeks ago, representatives of the British, American and European banks financing the group have been trying to reschedule MFC's loan commitments.

At the end of last week, MFC sold 50 per cent of its interest in two super-tankers on which the Belfast shipyards, Harland and Wolff, are due to begin work early next year. The sale price of \$3m. will go some way towards meeting MFC's \$40m. debt.

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TAX STRIKE THREAT BY MERCHANTS

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Representatives of the Jerusalem Merchants Association will meet with Municipality officials on Sunday to try to avert a new tax strike.

Last summer the merchants, claiming the Capital's business tax rates are higher than those of Haifa and Tel Aviv, refused to pay their municipal business tax. Following several seizures of merchandise by tax collectors and demonstrations outside Town Hall, a pause in the dispute was achieved when the Municipality granted an across-the-board reduction in the tax bills.

The Municipal finance department on Tuesday notified the city's businessmen that there will be no increase in the tax bills to be issued next April. But Merchants Association secretary Abraham Benhamud told The Post the notification "is not too soothing since Jerusalem's business taxes are still many times higher than those of Israel's other two large cities."

At Sunday's meeting, he said, his association will put the Municipality on notice that "under no circumstances will our members agree to pay the proposed tax rates."

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TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET:

Index-linked bonds up

TEL AVIV. — Index-linked bonds continued to rise yesterday — the 10-year redemption series by only about a point, but optionals with redemption of beyond a year between two and four points. Those with a redemption period of less than a year were irregular.

Bond turnover was 111.7m. Stocks, which had shown good gains on Wednesday, were irregular yesterday. Among those to rise were financial issues.

Bank Leumi was up one point, to 208 (on 64,000 shares traded);

Tefahot fell 1.5, to 212 (on 36,200);

Hassaneh was up two, to 273 (8,200);

Faz rose two, to 186 (9,500); Miz-

rah Investments rose 4, to 154 (39,500); and Bank Leumi Invest-

ments was up 2.5, to 197.5 (52,300).

The general index rose by 0.10

per cent, to stand at 124.38 points.

Stock turnover was 111.7m., of which IL492,100 was in the vari-

ables.

The Nafat dollar rose three

points, to stand at IL9.08. There

was a demand for \$147,000, and

\$128,000 were traded yesterday.

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ICOP Citrus f 107 105

Anglo-Israel Investors f 236 236

Nafat f 129 131

Pri Or Ltd. f 230 230

Rasoco - 8% pref. f 112 113

Rasoco f 70.5 70.5

INDUSTRIAL

Alliance - B f 635 635

Elec - 2.5 f 121 120

Amco f 125 125

Argamant - 5% f 215 214

Ata - C f 118 118

Duke - 8% pref. f 345 338

Elec. Wire & Cable f 108 109

Teva f 1041 1040

Chem. & Phosphates f 152 150.5

10% Nafat pref. f 102 102

Moller Textile f 158.5 157.5

Phoenicia - 8% pref. f 88 88

Paper 200 f 225 225

Assis - B f 138 139.5

Nechushan 8% pref. f 450 450

Shim - 8% pref. f 127 126.5

Tal Plymouth f 108 107

INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL

Elgar f 117 115

Elgar f 155 155

Elgar f 125 125

Elgar f 194 194

Elgar f 168 168

Elgar f 78.5 78.5

Elgar f 127 127

Elgar f 131.5 131

Elgar f 154 150

Elgar f 157 154

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE Thursday, March 11, 1976

Blue Chips pass 1,000

The stock market advance picked up steam, with the blue chip index lead over declines by an eight to The Dow Jones index was ahead

more than 7 1/2 points at 1002.91, up steam, with the blue chip index lead over declines by an eight to The Dow Jones index was ahead

The market comment and selected list of stocks are based on the quotations at 3 p.m. New York time.

Allied Chemical	42%	Union Carbide	75 1/4
Aluminum Co.	50%	United Technology	58 1/4
American Brands	4	U.S. Steel	87
American Can	35%	Westinghouse Elec.	57 1/4
American Tel and Tel	58%	Woolworth	24 1/4
Anacosta	21 1/4	Avon Prod	40%
Bethlehem Steel	47 1/4	Boeing	27 1/4
Chrysler	20 1/4	Boise Cascade	29
Dupont	153 1/4	Citigroup	32 1/4
Eastman Kodak	113 1/4	Control Data	24 1/4
Exxon Inc.	40%	Disney	61
General Electric	88%	Dome Mines	42 1/4
General Foods	51%	Fairchild Camera	40%
General Motors	30 1/4	General Dynamics	48 1/4
Goodyear	22 1/4	IBM	264 1/4
Inter. Harvester	27 1/4	Int. Tel. Tel	29 1/4
Inter. Nickel	34%	LTV Corp	15 1/4
Inter. Paper	78%	McDonalds	61 1/4
Johns Manville	50%	Natl. Semiconductor	26 1/4
Owens-Illinois	85	Polaroid	41 1/4
Proctor and Gamble	74%	RCA Corp.	28 1/4
Sears Roebuck	30%	Sperry Rand	48
Standard Oil of Calif	25 1/4	Syntex	30 1/4
Texas	25 1/4	Xerox	65

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ISRAEL AND RUMANIA

THE EXCHANGE of visits on the commercial relations between Israel and Rumania have now become an annual event. Carried out under the aegis of the Rumanian-Israel Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation, they are dedicated to a periodic review of the workings of the economic and trade pacts between the two countries, and to drawing up plans for the future.

Economically, the interests of Israel and Rumania naturally both mesh and clash, as each country tries to keep the volume of exports above that of imports. During the past year Rumania has been more successful at it than Israel, and an effort will doubtless be made to find ways of boosting Israeli sales to Rumania next year.

The cooperation between Israel and Rumania has never suffered from the acknowledged differences in their political systems nor from the admitted divergencies in political outlook. Jerusalem and Bucharest have, for example, agreed to disagree on the best ways of achieving a Middle East peace. Rumania has publicly questioned Israel's refusal to discuss the establishment of a PLO state. Israel, more circumspectly perhaps, has puzzled over Rumania's disregard of the mass of evidence about the PLO's true intentions. At the last UN General Assembly Rumania joined the "Committee of Twenty" on the Palestinians, a PLO-inspired body. Earlier, however, the Rumanian delegation had walked out of the hall rather than participate in the vote on Zionism.

There is appreciation in Israel of the fact that Rumania's policies are dictated in an important degree by the desire to assure the support of the Third World, which is viewed as a mighty bulwark against Soviet encroachments. And, as we have very often been reminded, but perhaps need to recall again, Rumania is the only East European country which refused to follow Soviet orders on cutting off relations with Israel after the end of the Six Day War.

Rumania has therefore in its own way established on-going and beneficial relationships with both Israel and the Arab states, in sharp contrast to the wholly partisan stance of its East European neighbours.

Rumania's policy in the Middle East reflects, of course, its more general independent stance in East Europe, which has enabled it to promote first and foremost the material and political interests of its own people.

It would be surprising therefore if Rumania were in any way to give credence to the claims of the Arab League yesterday that Bucharest's decision to divert its oil supply shipments from the Elhat-Ashkelon pipeline to the Suez Canal was taken in response to Arab boycott pressures. The very presence here of the Rumanian Foreign Trade Minister would belie that claim, as he himself noted.

That the Arab League would present this Rumanian decision — made apparently for hard financial reasons — as a political act was perhaps to be expected. But it must also be said that the agreement by which Israel enabled Egypt to reopen the Canal — as well as the interim agreement which followed — did not envisage such quick and brazen political exploitation of Israel's accord with Egypt.

SADAT ON THE DEFENSIVE

"EXIT President Sadat of Egypt, enter President Assad of Syria." This is how an Arab diplomat in Cairo summed up the most recent change in the Middle East scene in a conversation with a foreign correspondent last week.

The remark was very apt. Sadat has lately been on the defensive, battling simultaneously on two fronts. One such front is the Arab world, where the leadership role held by Egypt since 1952 is waning in face of mounting Syrian criticism of Sadat's "separatist" Sinai accord with Israel. The other front is right at home, where Sadat's promises of an age of economic abundance "just around the corner" are now being viewed as an illusion.

Assad, on the other hand, has greatly boosted his prestige by imposing a cease-fire in Lebanon's 10-month-long civil war and by taking Jordan into a newly established alignment between Damascus and Amman. At the same time, Assad has spread Syria's wings over the Palestinians thus muting the trumpet calls that Sadat has been blowing on their behalf since the conclusion of the Sinai agreement.

The Syrian President's explanation was that all his moves were aimed at forming a new anti-Israel alliance to substitute for Egypt, which he accused of having deserted the Arab camp altogether.

Disputing the Syrian claims, the

Egyptian President heatedly warned the Arab nations against Syria's attempts to isolate Cairo, and at the same time reiterated the old dogma that the Arab world as a whole, and the Middle East in particular, can make no decisive move without Egypt.

This indeed was the message that Sadat recently carried to the oil-rich Arab countries, where he hoped to raise some \$4,000m. in immediate aid for Egypt's faltering economy. Despite his assurances that Egypt had not abandoned the battle against Israel, Sadat emerged with less than \$1,000m. from the oil states — and

restricts Egypt's armed presence not only in Sinai but also in the Suez Canal zone.

Time is the essence of Sadat's dilemma, since only last September he clearly undertook to refrain from any military action for three-and-a-half years. He is thus faced with the problem of proving to his fellow Arabs that he does not view the Sinai arrangement as an end in itself, but only as a means to an Arab end.

The Egyptian leader's repeated claims that he was basing himself on "more than promises" from the U.S. to work out an immediate second engagement between Syria and

different ways. First, a new crisis may be brewing over Sadat's renewed criticism of the Soviet Union for refusing to reschedule Egypt's debts, and for denying Egypt — but not Syria — vital arms supplies. Secondly, Sadat and Polakov may have explored the restoration of closer ties between the two countries, following the conciliatory gestures made by Leonid Brezhnev at the 28th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. The third possibility however is that by meeting with the Soviet Ambassador Sadat was drawing Washington's attention to Egypt's still existing Soviet option. (It is, of course, entirely possible that the meeting also specifically dealt with the prospects of reconvening the Geneva Peace Conference, of which the Soviet Union is co-chairman, together with the U.S.)

Yet despite Sadat's preoccupation with Egypt's economic plight he is not likely to stop his political manoeuvrings in an effort to outbid Syria as the true champion of the Arab — and Palestinian — cause. To demonstrate his unimpeachable Arab credentials is in itself an economic imperative for Sadat, considering the premium that the oil states place upon continued belligerence towards Israel; but, above all else, it is a condition of political survival for Egypt's President.

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THE MIDDLE EAST SCENE / ANAN SAFADI

with a promise that they would meet in Riyadh this week to discuss further possible contributions to a special fund for helping the Egyptian economy. The unmistakable intimation was that future assistance to Egypt would be linked to Sadat's political conduct within the Arab arena.

Sadat must have taken especially great pains to demonstrate that the Sinai settlement was to the benefit not of Egypt alone but of all the Arabs. He went even further to claim that Egypt had in fact "improved its military deployment" under the interim accord, although it actually

Israel, and to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), have been undermined when Washington declared it knew nothing of any such pledges.

THE AMBIGUITIES in the situation call for a greater effort by Sadat to straighten them out. As a matter of fact, he is scheduled to deliver a major policy statement next Sunday, where it is expected he will outline his vision of Egypt's future.

At the moment there are strong indications that Sadat is heading towards a large-scale reshuffle in his administration. This will be designed

'STEERING FORUM' MAY SAVE LABOUR

Haim Bar-Lev, Minister of Commerce and Industry, met with The Jerusalem Post staff this week, and said the Labour Party's leadership must begin to work as a team if it is to rehabilitate itself.

stalemate is bound to lead to war, sooner or later."

MOST OF THE discussion dealt with economic questions, however.

Unlike other countries fighting inflation, Israel could not afford to permit large-scale unemployment, Bar-Lev said. Such unemployment would be a deterrent to immigration, and would lead large numbers to leave the country — particularly among those newcomers who are not yet fully integrated.

This was the problem the Government faced in planning an efficient budget, trying to curb inflation while preventing unemployment from becoming more than marginal.

Although marginal unemployment did exist, export industries were expanding and, in most localities, were short of workers.

Only in exceptional cases — such as Elhat, where the Timna mines have been the chief source of employment — did alternative employment become a problem

when an enterprise closes down.

Bar-Lev regarded the notion of getting large numbers of workers to transfer from services to industry as unrealistic. There was workers' mobility, he said, within industry, where some 10,000 workers changed jobs in the past year. But the efforts must concentrate on new workers who are entering the labour force, not on those already working in services.

ONE OF THE greatest obstacles to mobility, Bar-Lev agreed, was the lack of a national pension plan, which would safeguard the rights of workers who change jobs. This has deterred workers from readily switching jobs, and led them to demand inflated severance pay.

In part, Bar-Lev said, it explains why the Timna workers are adamantly demanding extra severance pay and why the Government is negotiating with them on this rather than sticking to the letter of the work agreement.

(Another reason, of course, is that the severance pay stipulated in the work contract applies to a dismissed employee, not to a mass dismissal due to closure of the works. The Elhatdrut would surely put up a fight if the contract were interpreted to apply to closure as well, Bar-Lev said.)

In any event, to avoid a recurrence of the same problem if plants close down in future, the national pension law would have to be passed first, so that workers can transfer their accumulated rights. This law has long been in preparation, Bar-Lev said, and it will probably be tabled in the Knesset within a few months.

The development of export industry, which is proceeding apace, will be aided, Bar-Lev thought, by increased foreign investment. This will happen both because of world-wide economic recovery, and because of the new measures being taken to protect the value of the in-

vestors' capital. Examples of this are the new Capital Investment Encouragement Law, and the recommendations by the Knesset Committee to link the investments to the dollar.

Bar-Lev appeared to have been caught off-guard when questioned about the decline in productivity during the past year, at first expressing doubt that there had in fact been a decline. But he then attributed this to the time-lag in the results stemming from the efforts of enterprises to make their operations more efficient. These plants, he said, had initially responded to the various measures to cut down the growth in GNP by cutting down on overtime, for example. However, the results would be felt in the future, he said confidently.

With regard to the Government budget as applied to his own Ministry, Bar-Lev said he was not in favour of measures such as the allocation of 1/18 portions for each month during the first quarter of the fiscal year. One of the reasons decisions could not be implemented faster — the proper way to work was at an even pace, according to plan. Better a more limited plan and steady implementation, he said.

He also felt that a contributing factor to slow implementation was the fear of officials to accept responsibility, following the Elhat Corporation and other scandals, and the scathing report by the State Comptroller. Lower officials tend to pass the buck to their superiors, and this also causes delays.

ISRAEL PRESS

DAYAR (Hizdadrut) says: "Whether the civil war in Lebanon is resumed or not, the very worst possible results previously predicted may yet come true, with the Palestinian terrorist organizations and their Moslem allies gaining control of Southern Lebanon in the area adjoining the Israeli border, and stepping into the vacuum left by the Lebanese Army. The 'Palestinian Liberation Army' units not only did not evacuate the area, as promised by Damascus, but have been steadily reinforced and now number seven

units, which have been joined by deserters from the Lebanese Army. There is no more room for illusions that the situation that prevailed prior to the civil war can be restored. In view of the rising wave of incitement and attempted attacks in the administered areas and inside Israel, Israel must closely follow developments across the northern border and in its own midst. We must be prepared for the possibility of activation of the conflict front being formed on that border."

PORTION OF THE WEEK

Plant flax to sow Tora

"WHEN ANY SOUL brings a Meal-offering to God" (Leviticus 2:1) — A woman brought a bit of meal, and the Priest abused her, saying: "See what they bring! This is food? This is a fitting offering?" That night he had a dream in which he was told: "Do not scold her, for that poor woman, that bit of meal was a great sacrifice, as though she were offering up her very soul."

Rabbi Yitzhak said: "Better one pain full and peace of mind than both flax full and wind-chasing toil" (Ecclesiastes 4:6) — Better to learn two homilies and know them well and live by them than to learn whole sets of laws without really knowing and living by them. merely in order to be a "wind-chaser" — that is, in order that people shall say: "That one is a great student of the law. Better to own only 10 gold-pieces and earn your livelihood through them than to go borrowing money merely so that people shall say: 'That one is a big businessman... Better the one-palm-full Meal-offering of the poor, which is a free-will gift, than the High Priest's two-flax-full incense-offering which he must bring in expiation for himself and his household (Vayikra Rabbah 3:4, 2).

RABBI HANINA and Rabbi Hilya once quarrelled. Rabbi Hanina said: "You dare to quarrel with me? If the Jews should ever, God forbid, forget the Tora, I will revive it by the power of my rhetoric!" Rabbi Hilya retorted: "Do you dare to quarrel with me, seeing what I do to keep Tora alive? How? I plant flax, and from the flax I make nets, with which I trap gazelles, whose flesh I feed to orphans and from whose hides I make scrolls on which I write the five books of the Tora, which I then take (to a place where there are no teachers) and teach one of the five books to each of five children and one of the six orders of the Mishna to each of six children and tell them that until I return from the next place (where he will do the same) they should teach each other what they have learned" (Bava Metzia 85b).

YALKUT SHEMONI comments on tomorrow's Haftara (1 Samuel 15:1-34; Parashat Zachor): Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi says: He who has pity on the cruel ends up being cruel to the innocent.

M.K.

READERS' LETTERS

CHANGE ISRAEL'S APPROACH TO THE CHURCH

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Since the rebirth of this nation, the Israeli authorities have courted the various "Vaticans" and church leaders in a naive manner and with a surprising lack of dignity. After 30 years, the result is that official Christianity is in the camp of Israel's mortal enemies and the Vatican has still not recognized Israel.

A few days ago, an emissary from Rome who took part in a Jewish-Catholic encounter stated, no doubt in good faith, that there were great improvements in the relations with the Vatican.

Now, a communiqué from the Vatican (March 10) alleges these declarations, adding that the emissary was not qualified to speak on such matters and that "there had been absolutely no change in the

Holy See's policies." In other words, Rome still hopes that Jerusalem will be internationalized.

I have followed closely this "dialogue" between the "Vaticans" and Israel since more than 20 years and am not surprised at this development. The "Vaticans" are in the hands of ecclesiastical mafias who will never recognize Israel and never accept Israel's jurisdiction over Jerusalem. Jerusalem has been their private preserve for centuries, their theological approach has always been anti-Zionist and their main interest (a most appropriate term) lies in the exploitation of the so-called "holy places" — which is an abomination to God and an insult to Jesus.

The time has come to change our approach radically and to change the men in charge of this unfortunate

policy. Israel must recover its lost dignity in Rome, Geneva and elsewhere. The first step is to stop courting the heirs of Fascist. If these people insist on flouting Israel and flirting with her worst enemies, they should be told to pack up and leave. Such a crisis would quickly make them change their approach.

The real Church of Jesus belongs to its humble members all over the world who love the Bible and Israel — not this mafia of corrupt high ecclesiastics who are the politicians of religion.

REVEREND CLAUDE DUVEYNOY, Director
Christian Action for Israel
Jerusalem.

POSTSCRIPT

THE LION and the unicorn are part of England's heraldic emblem. The unicorn is, of course, a mythical animal, but the lion is becoming a popular family pet in Britain. With burglary figures increasing and the Englishman's traditional privacy being constantly eroded, writes John Cornwell in "The Observer," "Beware of the Lion" is replacing "Beware of the Dog" as a warning sign to intruders.

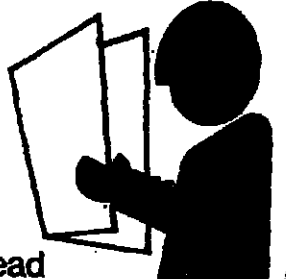
In a kind of cause-and-effect reaction to this new popularity lions "are breeding like rabbits," and as a result cost only about £400 a piece, nowadays.

Of course, householders have to have pretty large homes in order to accommodate this species of pet. A couple living in a caravan trailer had to get rid of their 18-month-old lion because it was taking up two-thirds

of the living space. On the other hand, millionaire Paul Getty keeps a pride of two in his country home. Food is another problem — an adult lion eats about 15000 worth of food a week.

In order to keep the lion population within acceptable bounds, contraceptives are being tried out at Whipsnade Zoo. Simple sterilization, it appears, robs the male of his mane.

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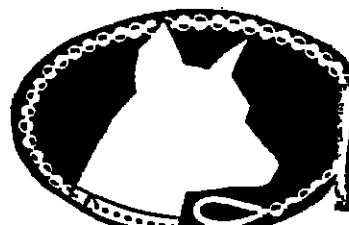
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